

Turkey rejects 9-party talks on Cyprus

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkey on Sunday rejected as "not serious" a proposal for nine-party talks aimed at solving the Cyprus dispute, saying it would insist on its own terms for a settlement. Foreign Ministry Spokesman Murat Sancar was responding to an idea launched Saturday by the policy-making Greek Cypriot National Council after a meeting attended by visiting Greek Premier Constantine Mitsotakis. The council called on U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to convene a Cyprus conference in which the five permanent members of the Security Council — the United States, Soviet Union, Britain, France and China — would participate. Earlier Turkish President Turgut Ozal called for negotiations between "high-level representatives" of Greece, Turkey, Cyprus and the breakaway Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. Sancar charged that the Greek Cypriot proposals overlooked the need for a settlement based on the equality of Turkish and Greek Cypriots, reinforced the Greek Cypriot government's claim to represent all Cyprus and sought to derail Turkey's call for four-party talks.

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National Congress endorses National Charter

King: Charter opens door for pluralism; guards people against one-party despotism

By Narmeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein inaugurated multi-party politics in the Kingdom Sunday but warned that no single party can claim to possess the truth and that pluralism is the only guarantee against all forms of dictatorship "particularly despotism by the one-party."

The King also warned against the misinterpretation of democracy: "Democracy must not be mistaken for irresponsible freedom," he said. "It is not a license for libel and defamation. It is not a license to cross the demarcation lines separating authorities. It is not a silk cloak under which to conceal poisoned daggers. It is not an invitation for each of the authorities to set traps for the other at the expense of the public good, instead of cooperating to promote it. It is not an umbrella for terrorizing the minds of others. It is not the means for the

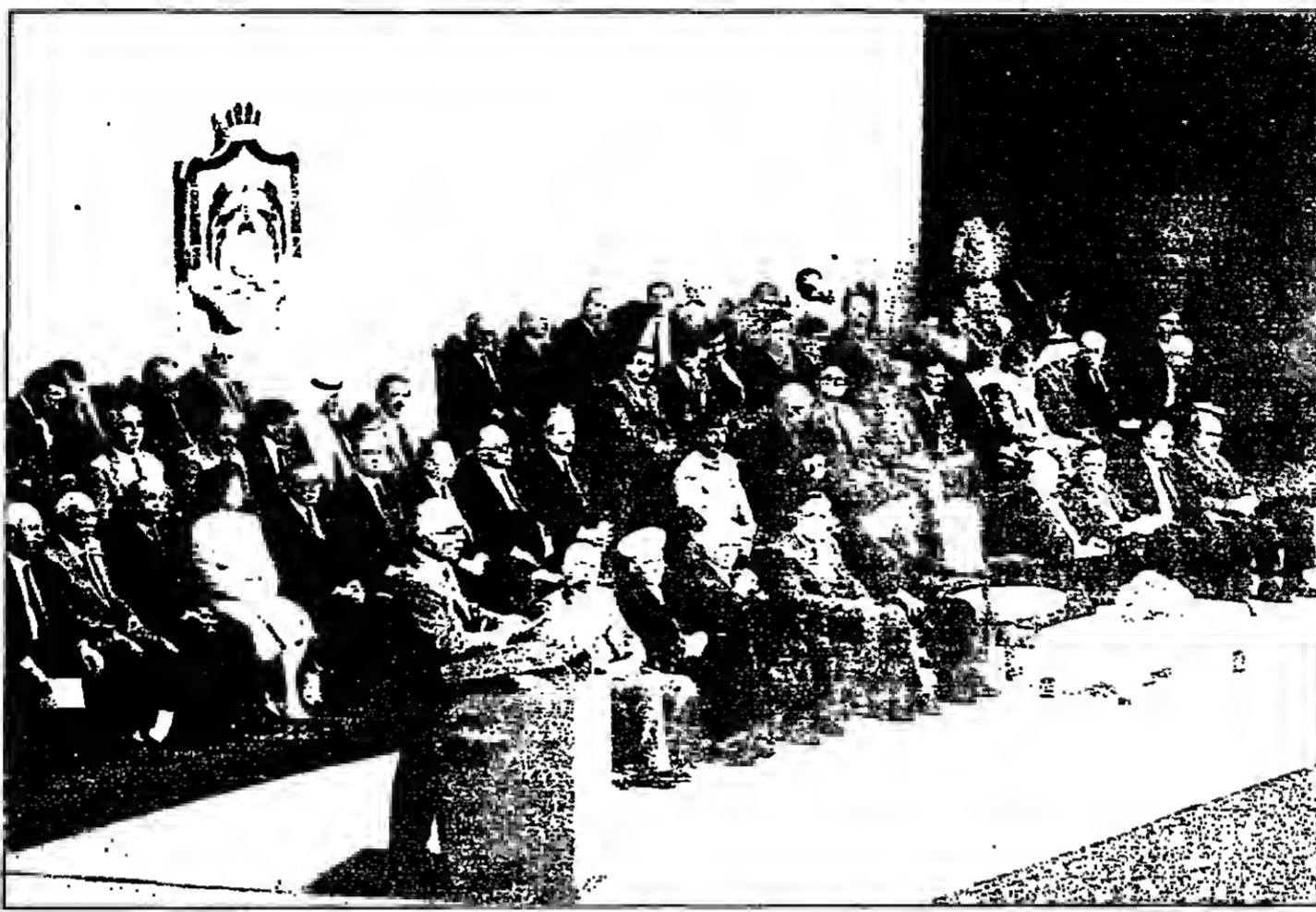
despotism of a majority against a minority. That would lead to anarchy which would kill democracy and bring about the ruination of the land and the people."

In two speeches at the Jordanian National Congress conference, convened to endorse the National Charter, the King laid out the ground rules for the launching of democratic reform. He stressed the need to utilize the spirit of democracy to continue the dialogue and focus attention on the challenges facing the country, especially those of poverty and unemployment.

The King said that the two most pressing and painful problems facing the Kingdom now are poverty and unemployment which he said were exacerbated by the third wave of mass immigrants in less than forty years.

He was referring to the influx of over 300,000 Jordanians from the Gulf states including Kuwait

(Continued on page 3)



His Majesty King Hussein addresses the Jordanian National Congress convened Sunday at the Palace of Culture to endorse the

National Charter. Seated behind the King are the 60-member commission that drafted the Charter (photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

2,000 delegates bless National Charter

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Jordan Sunday entered a new political and social era with the endorsement of the National Charter by more than 2,000 prominent personalities representing Jordanians of all walks of life. The charter, presented to the people at a ceremony held at the Palace of Culture, and addressed by His

Majesty King Hussein, aims to develop popular participation and the exercise of political pluralism in the Kingdom, according to Mr. Ahmad Obeidat, the chairman of the 60-member Royal Commission for drafting the charter.

The birth of the charter was proclaimed with unanimous vote

(Continued on page 5)

Obeidat's full speech on page 5)

Badran congratulates King

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Sunday congratulated His Majesty King Hussein on the endorsement of the National Charter. In his cable, Mr. Badran said the unanimous endorsement of the charter demonstrated the unity of the Jordanian people and their rally behind the "inspired Hashemite leadership."

This unanimous popular blessing of the National Charter is a genuine starting point for a new phase where the democratic approach, which you charted as a wide road for the people and the country, and an irrevocable free selection, will be enhanced," Badran said.

He noted that the endorsement of the charter coincided with Jordan's celebration of its national day.

These country-wide celebrations stress Jordan's allegiance to the message and principles of the Great Arab Revolt and the Kingdom's resolve and determination to safeguard its independence, achievements and its wise Hashemite leadership, Badran said.

He added that the King's directives to the national congress on the charter were a source of inspiration, guiding the steps of the Jordanian march, and laying the foundations of democracy, freedom, justice and domination of the law.

Western envoys end Lebanon isolation

BEIRUT (R) — Western envoys arrived in Beirut Sunday for talks on hostages and reconstruction, ending the isolation of the civil war years when Europeans walked the city's streets at their peril.

"It is a great opportunity to emphasize Britain's support of the Lebanese government's reasserting control of the integrity of this country," British Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg said at the airport.

Hogg told reporters he also wanted to express London's strong desire for an early release of all the 12 western hostages missing in Lebanon, in particular three Britons.

"I don't want to arouse any false expectation of an early release but I shall be doing all that I can to assist," he said.

Diplomatic sources said the British embassy was trying to arrange for Hogg to meet Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, the spiritual leader of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) which is believed to be an umbrella for the kidnappers.

Hussein Musawi, Hizbollah secretary-general, said Saturday the western hostages in Lebanon would not be released until Israel freed Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners.

Former Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi, an adviser to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, landed 90 minutes after Hogg but made no statement to reporters at the airport.

Craxi is the highest-ranking U.N. representative to come since the government declared an end to 16 years of civil war last December and started spreading its authority over Lebanon.

Diplomatic sources said Craxi would inspect war destruction during his two-day visit and discuss how the international community could help Lebanon rebuild its infrastructure.

The Lebanese government estimates war damage at between \$15 and \$25 billion. It wants up to \$2 billion in long-term loans as a start to finance reconstruction.

With Lebanon's foreign minister abroad, Hogg was welcomed on arrival by Economy and Trade Minister Marwan Hamadi.

(Continued on page 3)

Israeli settlers attack Hussein

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Dozens of angry Jewish settlers assaulted Palestinian leader Faisal Hussein Sunday outside a Jerusalem court where a hearing was held for a fellow settler held for killing an Arab shepherd.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, the body of an Arab was found stabbed to death in Rafah after being kidnapped by Palestinian activists, Arab reporters said.

The killing came as Palestinians observed a general strike to mark the start of the 43rd month of their uprising against Israeli occupation of Arab territories.

Shops remained closed and public transportation came to a halt. But despite the strike, some 17,000 Arab labourers from the Gaza Strip went to their jobs in Israel, army radio said.

Outside the Jerusalem court, some 30 settlers, including members of the anti-Arab Kach Party, assaulted the 50-year-old Hussein.

seini, a pro-PLO activist who has been mentioned as a possible negotiator with Israel.

"They started running after me, trying to hit me," Hussein told Israeli Radio. "Fortunately I managed to get from there without being hurt."

Photographers said the mob cursed him, spat on him, tried to strike him and threw stones at his car.

"You'll never get a Palestine," the crowd yelled at Hussein as his two aides ushered him into his car. Hussein was seen wiping spittle from his face with handkerchief, Israeli Radio said.

Police did not intervene, and a police spokeswoman said the incident developed and was over before officers could take action. However, witnesses reported some police stood by as the mob attacked.

Hussein, who met with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker during his trips here, was at the

police station to be returned documents confiscated during an arrest earlier in the Palestinian uprising.

The settlers spotted Hussein as they waited to hear the results of a Jerusalem magistrates court hearing for a 27-year-old comrade who was accused of killing a Palestinian shepherd in a dispute over sheep grazing at a Jewish settlement.

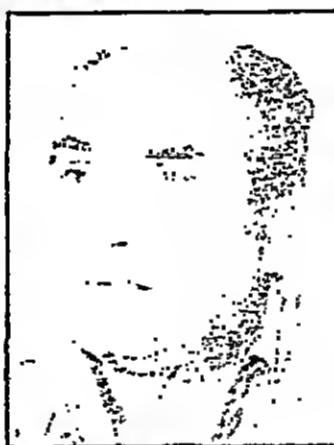
The court ordered the Israeli, identified by Israeli Radio as Baruch Yalin, jailed for 12 days while an investigation into the slaying was carried out.

The Israeli was arrested Friday after he shot several of the 55-year-old Palestinian's sheep, then opened fire on the shepherd after he was attacked by other Arabs.

In the Rafah slaying, Arab reporters identified the victim as Imad Shehadeh Rakhawi, 25, and said he was a suspected drug dealer. A group calling itself the "Black Panthers" took responsibility for the killing.

There has been a sharp rise in the number of Palestinians killed by their fellow Arabs in recent months, most as suspected collaborators, drug dealers or prostitutes.

At least 400 Arabs have been killed by their brethren during the uprising. Some 830 Palesti-



Faisal Hussein

nians have been slain by Israeli soldiers and civilians.

The Palestinian leadership has repeatedly called for an end to the killings of alleged collaborators. The Arab press published editorials over the weekend calling for a self-examination of the way the violence of the uprising has turned upon itself.

Palestinians have complained about activists using the uprising as a cover for thefts and killings. The Israeli daily Yedioth Aharonoth ran a front page photo of a public flogging over the weekend of an alleged thief in Nablus, the West Bank's largest city.

Kuwait sets up panel to review court verdicts

KUWAIT (R) — The Kuwaiti government, apparently bowing to international pressure over the conduct of Iraqi "collaboration" trials, has set up a panel to review all verdicts issued by a martial law court.

The move was announced in the state-controlled newspaper Al Fajr Al Jadid (New Dawn) on Sunday, a day after the court passed its first death sentence since trials began three weeks ago of people charged with helping Iraqi occupation forces.

The United States, which led an international coalition that ended Iraq's seven-month hold on Kuwait, has been the most vocal of the Western allies in expressing concern about the trials.

Mankhi Al Shammari, a stateless Arab resident of Kuwait, was sentenced to hang for joining Iraq's popular army, a reserve force deployed in the emirate by Baghdad.

He has no right of appeal under martial law but formation of the committee suggested his sentence would be reviewed.

New Dawn quoted Justice Minister Ghazi Sammar as saying the panel was set up by the martial law administrator, Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla Al Sabah, who is crown prince and prime minister.

Until now, Sheikh Saad alone had the power to reduce or commute sentences handed down by courts composed of two military officers and three judges.

"The martial law governor has ordered the formation of an office of three legal counsels to study verdicts issued by the martial law courts for approval to see if these courts have applied the law correctly," Sammar was quoted as saying.

Charges filed during martial law would revert to civil or state security offences when the exceptional powers expired at the end of this month, the justice minister said.

Sheikh Saad denounced torture and harassment of suspected collaborators in May, saying such abuses tarnished Kuwait's human rights image among the U.S.-led coalition countries that drove Iraq out of the emirate in a six-week war.

U.S. Ambassador Edward Gnehm told Kuwaitis on Saturday that the world was watching their handling of human rights.

"Kuwaitis must champion justice and fairness for all people in Kuwait in the same way the entire world stood for those principles for Kuwaitis," he told the chamber of commerce.

Shamir wants say on Palestinian delegation

Israel reveals Bush compromise proposals

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Sunday that U.S. President George Bush asked Israel to freeze Jewish settlement in occupied areas in return for U.S. agreement to Israeli demands on proposed Middle East peace talks.

Shamir said Israel wanted Palestinians represented within a Jordanian delegation to the talks, chosen by Jordan with an Israeli veto.

Shamir gave no indication that he accepted the proposals. "There is a statement in his (Bush's) telegram which says if we could offer freezing settlements perhaps there would not be a need for the things that you are not satisfied with," Shamir told reporters.

"I don't want to say exactly how the Palestinian part of the Jordanian delegation will be formed. It is clear that we are counting on Jordan to form the delegation but we must agree to the Palestinian component," he added.

The proposals were contained in a personal message from Bush to Shamir aimed at bridging differences between Israel and Arabs on a U.S. proposed peace conference.

According to Shamir's remarks Bush indicated that in return for a halt settlement in captured Arab lands the U.S. could accept Israel's opposition to any role for the United Nations and to the reconvening of the conference after country-to-country talks between Israel and Arab states.

The United States has said Israel's speedy expansion of Jewish settlements in occupied territory is one of the biggest obstacles to convening peace talks.

Syria, which the United States hopes to bring into the conference, has insisted on a significant role for the U.N. and for a periodic reconvening of the full conference.

Israel wants the initial meeting to break up into bilateral talks and not reconvene.

Earlier both state-run Israel Radio and army radio said Shamir's letter that last week turned down President Bush's appeal for Israel to drop demands on procedural matters also said the Jewish state would insist on strict terms for Palestinian participation.

Israel would not attend a Middle East peace conference until there was agreement on who would represent the Palestinians,

they said.

Shamir cited disagreement over the composition of the Palestinian delegation in refusing a year ago to enter talks proposed during the last U.S. peace effort.

The hardline Israeli leader has refused to accept any Palestinians from Arab East Jerusalem, or those living abroad.

He has also questioned a role for those associated with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, which includes all well-known nationalists but is regarded by Israel as bent on destroying the Jewish state.

The nearly two million Palestinians in the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem, staged a general strike Sunday to mark three-and-a-half years of revolt against Israeli control.

Army radio said Bush had believed there was general agreement on Palestinian representation from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, but Shamir had rejected that as a warning against Washington quickly calling a peace conference.

Israel confirmed Friday that Shamir's letter rejected U.S. appeals for a minor United Nations role in the proposed talks and for the conference to reconvene after six months of state-to-state talks to hear a progress report.

Shamir's position was widely

attacked by Israeli newspapers Sunday but government officials played down the significance of his response to Bush.

"We haven't closed the door," Foreign Minister David Levy said after a cabinet meeting. "We are continuing clarifications with the United States and we will continue this."

"I hope that the dialogue with our friend will indicate to us progress also on the side of the Arab states," he told reporters.

Egypt warns Israel

In Cairo, Foreign Minister Amr Moussa said Sunday that Egypt is making contacts to push forward the Middle East peace process and remove obstacles holding up negotiations.

Moussa indirectly warned Israel of the grave responsibility of putting up obstacles to block the peace process.

"I hope all parties start moving toward peace because the responsibility of stalling peace is grave and the responsibility of failing proposed peace plans is very big," Moussa told reporters.

"That is why Egypt is making contacts to discuss the obstacles. Egypt is making contacts with all the parties including the Palestinians," Moussa said.

Egypt and the PLO have been strained since they took opposite sides on Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

On the Occasion of the Anniversary of The Great Arab Revolt and Army Day



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MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Six Israeli MPs to visit Egypt

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Six Labour Party members of Israel's parliament will go to Egypt on Wednesday to discuss U.S. efforts to convene Middle East peace talks. Caucus leader Haim Ramon said he and five others plan to meet foreign ministry officials and possibly Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. "We will hear their positions, what they have done on the peace process, and tell them ours," Ramon told Reuters. The Likud Party of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said the Labour MPs' trip would sabotage its current peace efforts.

Israel television shows Syrian Jews praying

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel television showed rare videotape on Saturday of Syrian Jews praying in a Damascus synagogue. It said about 3,000 Jews remained in Syria, an arch foe of Israel, and the Syrian government recently allowed representatives of international organisations to visit them. The videotape was shot by a reporter for the U.S. News and World Report. It showed men wearing the skullcaps of religious Jews praying in an ornate synagogue and a Jewish school where children studied religious texts in Hebrew. At least seven Syrian Jews were serving jail sentences including two arrested recently with their families while trying to escape the country, the television said.

Poll 89 per cent say U.S. should be proud of Desert Storm

NEW YORK (R) — Amid parades for returning U.S. troops, a Time/CNN poll released on Saturday showed that a huge majority of Americans feel the United States should be proud of what was accomplished during the Gulf war. The telephone survey of 1,000 adults conducted on June 4-5 for the news magazine and Cable News Network television found that 89 per cent of those polled felt the U.S. should be proud of what was accomplished. With Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein still in power, the Kuwaiti monarchy apparently making no progress towards democratisation and efforts to force Arab-Israeli peace meeting with frustration, victory in the Gulf may not have achieved all that Americans had hoped for, the survey said. Still, the magazine said, 76 per cent of those questioned believe the war was worth fighting. The survey also showed that 68 per cent of those polled say Americans should be proud of what the United States has accomplished in the Middle East since the fighting ended. The poll, conducted by the Yankelovich Clancy Shulman organisation, had a margin of error of three per cent.

GCC information ministers take measures against Iraq

NICOSIA (R) — Gulf Arab states decided on Saturday to suspend Iraq's membership in all Gulf media institutions, Kuwait News Agency reported. It said information ministers of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council met in Kuwait to study post-Gulf war information strategy. KUNA, received in Cyprus, said a GCC information centre in Baghdad would be closed.

North African, European ministers to meet in Libya today

BENGHAZI, Libya (R) — Libya confirmed on Sunday that foreign ministers of the Maghreb states would hold a meeting with four EC foreign ministers in Tripoli on Monday. The Libyan News Agency JANA said the ministers would discuss "political and economic issues of common interest" and work on boosting cooperation between countries in the region. The agency quoted a foreign ministry spokesman as confirming the scheduled meeting with the foreign ministers of France, Italy, Spain, Portugal. The five Maghreb states — Libya, Mauritania, Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria — are concerned about the impact on their economies of the 1992 European Community plan for a single European market. The North African countries are heavily dependent on trade with the EC. There had been doubts the foreign ministers' meeting would take place after political upheaval in Algeria forced the cancellation of a weekend summit of Maghreb leaders in Benghazi. JANA quoted the foreign ministry source as saying four Maghreb foreign ministers would attend the meeting.

Bush names staff personnel director to VOA post

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush said he was nominating his White House personnel director, Charles Graves Undermyer, to head the government's Voice of America radio station. Undermyer, whose exact title would be associate director of the U.S. Information Agency for broadcasting and director of the Voice of America, would replace Richard W. Carlson. Bush also announced he was appointing Carlson as his ambassador to the Indian Ocean island state of Seychelles. Both positions must be confirmed by the Senate. Undermyer has served as White House personnel director since 1989. Before that he was assistant secretary of the navy for manpower and reserve affairs.

International operation saves victims of famine

By Dalia Baligh
The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — An international relief operation has temporarily saved 11 million Sudanese who were potential victims of famine and drought this summer, a Western diplomat said Sunday.

The diplomat, who is based in the Sudanese capital Khartoum, said that better than average rainfall has been reported in western Sudan since May which means the two-year-old cycle of drought has probably ended and will not create new threats next year.

"The message to send out now is that the international relief operation has saved lives and prevented many deaths already but that there are still problems," the diplomat said. He spoke in a telephone interview from Khartoum on condition he not be further identified.

He said the United States, Britain, European Community countries and other donors had sent in 300,000 metric tonnes of relief aid to affected Sudanese, all but 50,000 which had actually been distributed to people who needed it. Another 200,000 metric tonnes have already been pledged.

The United Nations had warned that up to 11 million Sudanese were threatened by famine and drought and that Sudan faced a shortage of 1.3 billion metric tonnes of relief food needed until the end of the year. They said that tens of thousands of deaths could be expected starting May.

The famine and drought situation affecting almost the whole country was further complicated by the military government's initial refusal to acknowledge the crisis or to assist with an emergency relief

operation.

On May 30, Andrew S. Natsios, director of the U.S. Agency for International Development's Foreign Disaster Assistance Office, said that much more food is available in Sudan because large amounts of food were discovered being hoarded by merchants waiting for shortages to push the prices up.

This availability of the food allows Western donors to pay for it and distribute it to hungry people much quicker than shipping it into the country.

World Food Programme spokesman Paul Mitchell said in Rome that in May, an average of eight people were dying of hunger every day in Sudan's North Kordofan, 400 kilometres southwest of Khartoum where tens of thousands of people had gathered in search of food.

"There is no real data on mortality rates caused by the famine and drought. There have been some deaths but numbers are no worse than normal," said the diplomat who was unable to confirm Mitchell's mortality figures.

Eastern, western and southern Sudan were believed to be the worst famine stricken areas. The diplomat said that relief food had reached almost all those areas and that relief flights for the south were starting again from Kenya and Uganda.

"The main pockets of concern are okay for now," he said. "It turned out to be a better logistical situation than we expected. But there are still major constraints. The weather, fuel and trucks remain in great shortage. The money supply."

He said 2,500 metric tonnes

of food were daily moving out of the country's main Red Sea port, Port Sudan.

The government has continued to create bureaucratic problems for Western relief organisations working in Sudan. Travel permits needed by all foreigners to travel outside of Khartoum are not easily obtainable, annual re-registration for the organisations is delayed and they are given a very poor exchange rate of 4.5 Sudanese pounds to the dollar instead of the more favourable 12.10 pounds to the dollar.

The famine in Sudan and across the Horn of Africa has been caused by the failing of summer rains for two consecutive years.

The diplomat said it had started raining in western Sudan in May.

"Already it has rained there

in the past few weeks more than it rained all of last year. Some people have started planting seeds for the next season," the diplomat said.

He said only about 30-40 per cent of the needed seeds were available in the west and that relief organisations were sending in more seeds. However, no rain has been reported in the east or south of Sudan.

The summer rains are not always welcome. Travellers to Kordofan in western Sudan said the rains have mired up the dirt roads and that trucks carrying relief food are bogged down in the sand.

"We have to wait until early July and get information about rainfall all over the country to see whether the drought is really over or not," the Western diplomat said. "But all things considered, the picture is a bit brighter."

Libya says to Britain: Let's talk 'like civilised people'

NICOSIA (R) — Libyan Foreign Minister Ibrahim Mohamed Beshari said on Sunday the Libyans and the British should talk to one another "like civilised people."

He was commenting on Britain's insistence that Libya should renounce terrorism and withdraw its alleged backing for the Irish Republican Army before there could be any suggestion of renewed links between the two countries.

"If the British, or others, have any doubts, why don't we sit at the table of negotiations like the civilised people," the Libyan News Agency JANA quoted him as saying.

"Why all this frantic campaign against Libya?" He asked.

"We are a democratic country that calls for solving problems among nations through dialogue and without any pre-conditions in the framework of... mutual respect," JANA, received in Cyprus, quoted him as saying.

A British Foreign Office spokesman on Saturday said "there can be no improved relations between Britain and Libya until we have convincing evidence that the Libyans have renounced their support for international terrorism, including the IRA."

Diplomatic ties between Tripoli and London were broken in 1984 after a policeman was killed by a shot fired from the Libyan embassy during a demonstration in the British capital.

Iraq to normalise labour, political laws

BAGHDAD (AP) — The Iraqi government has cancelled wartime labour laws and renewed pledges to open up the political system to greater freedoms, newspapers reported Sunday.

The Revolutionary Command Council on Saturday lifted laws restricting the freedom of government workers imposed during the 1980-88 war with Iran, according to Al-Thawra, the organ of the ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party.

Meanwhile, the government daily Al-Jumhuriya quoted Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan as saying that the government would soon revise laws on political parties and press freedom.

President Saddam Hussein has vowed to liberalise Iraq's authoritarian system to grant more political freedoms, a move begun with halting steps in 1989.

Kurdish leaders negotiating an autonomous region in northern Iraq say President Saddam has agreed in principle to a multi-party democracy, a free press and an end to the automatic rule of the Baath Party.

The council's decision on the labour laws put an end to decrees issued in 1983 and 1984 which

allowed officials to cancel overtime and night pay for state workers.

It also lifted measures which imposed stiff punishment on state workers who abandoned their jobs and banned the resignation of those who had less than 10 years in government service.

The laws affected much of the labour force. A large portion of the economy is under state control in this socialist country.

The wartime rules were imposed to push economic output to the limits when the country faced the threat of invasion by Iran in the mid-1980s. The decrees were continued through the invasion of Kuwait last year and the subsequent Gulf war.

Because many government jobs pay only 150 to 200 dinars a month, many state workers were forced to take second or third jobs to make ends meet, especially as inflation eroded the value of Iraq's currency. A dinar is worth \$3.2 officially, but less than 20 cents on the black market.

A kilogramme of meat costs about 10-15 dinars and a piece of flat bread half a dinar.

The Arabian Peninsula's only brewery to stop making beer

By Mariam Isa
Reuters

ADEN, Yemen — Islamic fundamentalists are gaining ground in newly united Yemen and are forcing the Arabian Peninsula's only brewery to stop making beer.

Ali Noaman, manager of the Seera Beer Factory in Aden, told Reuters that during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan this year the government-owned plant was told to switch to making non-alcoholic beverages as quickly as possible.

He said the brewery, protected from angry fundamentalists by a high stone wall and several strands of barbed wire, would continue producing beer until ingredients run out in July.

But the order signals the end of an era for the formerly socialist south, which united with its larger and more traditional neighbour one year ago.

In the secular south, influenced by decades of British colonial rule and immigrants from Africa and India, Yemenis drink openly in hotel bars and seedy nightclubs.

Most of the alcohol is brought by boat from Djibouti.

In the tribal north, alcohol is banned in compliance with Islamic rules. But many northerners drink booze smuggled from the south or directly from Djibouti to the northern port of Hodeidah.

Importers say former North Yemen was the biggest consumer of Johnny Walker Black Label in the Arab World. Some of the whisky went to neighbouring Saudi Arabia, where alcohol is also banned.

Now, northern fundamentalists are bribing bartenders in Aden to stop serving the forbidden brew. Some take the money and close — only to re-open a couple of weeks later.

Officials say there are no plans as yet to ban alcohol imports in Aden, a major world port which fell into neglect after Marxist took power in the wake of independence from Britain in 1967.

But the government-owned Victory supermarket chain will stop selling liquor in July. Many people predict alcohol will eventually be banned altogether.

"The main reason the brewery

will stop producing is a government concession to the Islamic fundamentalists, one importer said.

"But closing the brewery will not reduce drinking in Yemen, it will increase it," he added. Importers say another reason for the step was that northern alcohol smugglers — many from influential families — were losing customers because it was so much cheaper to visit Aden and drink there. Seera is one-tenth the price of smuggled beer in Sanaa.

Business boomed at the brewery, which makes six million litres a year, after the merger between north and south Yemen.

Wealthier northerners began replacing southern customers, who were hit harder by Yemen's economic recession. Clients would drive up to the brewery's iron gates — still plastered with socialist red stars — to buy crates or truckloads directly.

Noaman said plans to convert the 10-year-old plant to one that could produce non-alcoholic beer, mineral water and juices would be costly. It would also deprive the merged government

of more than 265 million riyals (\$22 million) of tax revenues a year.

Unless Noaman can find markets for the non-alcoholic brew in neighbouring Saudi Arabia, he expects to lose money. But there is little choice.

During Ramadan, which fell in April this year, the brewery temporarily stopped working to avert Muslim anger. This failed to placate southern believers.

Demonstrators marched from Friday prayers to the plant and one managed to climb over its dilapidated wall to try to set it ablaze. The army was called out to prevent major damage.

Eckhardt Zitzmann, the plant's German adviser, is philosophical about the change.

"You are in a country where alcohol is supposed to be forbidden but the government owns a brewery," he said.

Zitzmann, who managed a brewery in Iran prior to the 1979 Islamic revolution, said the Aden plant would switch to the same malt beverage still being produced by his old factory in Tehran.

U.S. presses human rights message 100 days later

By Andrew Hill
Reuters

KUWAIT — Little more than 100 days after it aid Kuwaiti Iraqi troops, Washington is using its status as the Gulf war saviour to urge Kuwaitis to kick the legacy of human rights abuse left over from Iraq's occupation.

With one eye on weekend memorial parades of Gulf veterans in Washington and New York, the U.S. ambassador to Kuwait urged the government to end torture of suspected collaborators.

Suspects should be tried in court, he said.

"To do otherwise will give Saddam Hussein a success of evil proportions," Edward Gnehm said in a speech delivered to Kuwait's businessmen but which was clearly aimed at its political leaders.

"He sowed discontent, he fostered brutality and torture. He fostered divisions between brothers. You must not become a victim now of the poison brought to Kuwait."

Gnehm, speaking "very frankly but as a friend," reminded the Kuwaiti leadership of its promise to speed democratic reform and revive a parliament which was dissolved in 1986.

"We welcomed your government's commitment last fall (October) to elections and par-

liamentary life. We do so because we strongly support the broadest possible participation of people in making the decisions that will affect their future and their well being."

The ambassador, who returned to Kuwait 100 days ago was speaking a few hours before a martial law court sentenced a collaborator to death for the first time.

It came a week after the emir announced the resurrection of a toothless assembly and that new elections would not be held for another 17 months.

Washington has been outspoken on both issues since leading the 26-nation coalition that ended Iraq's seven-month occupation of the emirate at the end of February. Kuwaiti opposition activists have also condemned human rights abuse and want general elections now.

The tough tone of Gnehm's remarks was as unexpected as the forum — the Kuwaiti Chamber of Commerce — was surprising.

It appeared to indicate that the United States will not lose sight of the goals of human rights observance and democracy as Operation Desert Storm recedes into memory and public opinion focuses on domestic recession and other foreign issues.

Washington media reports, quoting U.S. officials, said the

state department has concluded that it cannot greatly affect Kuwait's human rights policy or democratisation process and should quietly adopt a laissez-faire attitude, while monitoring both areas.

Gnehm gave no such impression in his speech.

"Clearly those individuals who broke Kuwaiti law and were parties to Iraqi criminal acts should be prosecuted fairly and fully under the law."

"But the innocent should not become new victims," he said, referring to allegations that some Palestinians and other non-Kuwaitis had been persecuted by security forces or self-styled militias because of PLO support for Baghdad through the Gulf crisis.

"No matter how emotionally difficult it is, Kuwaitis must now champion justice and fairness for all people in Kuwait the same way as the entire world stood for those principles for Kuwaitis," he said.

Kuwaiti officials said that a wave of revenge killings of Palestinians at the end of the war has now stopped although isolated cases of abduction and torture may continue.

They point out that such allegations are made by foreign human rights groups allowed to operate freely in Kuwait and say the current collaboration trials are

proof of their commitment to citizens rights.

But rights activists say government strictures against torture, abduction and revenge have failed to eradicate abuse and fear the remaining 200,000 strong Palestinian community has been alienated.

They are concerned about the conduct of the trials, a view echoed by the White House which last month voiced concern at the failure of the court to call witnesses and the reliance of the trials on confessions defence lawyers say were made under torture or duress.

Lawyers defending 17 defendants — eight Iraqis, seven Jordanians and two bedouins (stateless Arabs) — alleged in summing up on Saturday that all their clients had confessed under torture.

One, Bedoun Mankhi Al Shammari, was sentenced to be hanged for joining Iraq's popular army militia during the occupation. He admitted the charge but said he joined only because of Iraqi threats to his family.

Shammari has no right of appeal. No date for the hanging was set. Before the invasion the emir of Kuwait regularly commuted death sentences — the last carried out was against a Pakistani who murdered a bus driver in 1990.

Wall Street



Amman's Super DISCO
Nightly except Friday

JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 La Belle Anglaise
19:00 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sports Magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:20 Empty Nest
21:00 Nancy Wake
21:10 News in English
22:30 Murder in Texas

PRAYER TIMES

6:51 Fajr
6:55 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:34 Asr
16:15 Maghrib
19:44 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifich
Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel.
632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
637440.

De la Soile Church Tel. 661757
Terremata Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
625411.
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel.
625433.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.
772261.
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel.
685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.
811295.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-
Day Saints Tel. 812917, 644322.
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of
Meteorology.

Slight drop in temperatures will take
place in the afternoon and winds will
be northwesterly moderate to fresh. In
Aqaba, winds will be northerly moder-
ate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 15 / 30

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Agaba 24 / 34
Dahab 16 / 32
Jordan Valley 21 / 34

Vesterday's high temperatures: Am-
man 32, Aqaba 36. Humidity readings:
Amman 27 per cent, Aqaba 24 per
cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE
NUMBERS
NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mohammed Mansar 741444
Dr. Anwar Al Haj 771020
Dr. Abdul Aziz Taboun 783708
Dr. Younes Sammour 615648
First pharmacy 661912
Raddow pharmacy 778336
Al Asama pharmacy 637055
Neiroukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salem pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Hamdi Barham (—)
Al Sharaa pharmacy 273625

ZARQA:
Dr. Ziad Hawashneh (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 98417

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 834402
Traffic Police 863391
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage
Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality
Complaints 787111

Telephone Information
(directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Emergency
Civil Defence 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Abdali Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malbus, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 641714
Shmeisani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845
Al-Mashraf Hospital 6672779
The Islamic, Abdali 66612737
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Mahajreeh 7771012
Al-Basheir, J. Ashrafieh 77511126
Army, Marfa 89161175
Queen Alia Hospital 60224050
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Gov. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272775
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal

Jordanian (RJ) information depart-
ment at the Queen Alia International
Airport Tel. (06)3322-5, where it
should always be verified.

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
(Terminal 1)
08:20 Dhahran (RJ)
18:15 Jeddah, Sanaa (RJ)
18:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
19:15 Laraca, Damascus (RJ)
19:30 Riyadh (RJ)
19:40 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
14:45 Bahrain (GF)
20:45 Cairo (MS)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
(Terminal 1)
12:00 Riyadh (RJ)
12:30 Montreal, New York (RJ)
20:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:30 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
14:55 Bahrain (GF)
20:55 Cairo (MS)

MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple 700 / 600
Banana 500 / 400
Banana (Makassar) 450 / 400
Beans 850 / 750
Cabbage 120 / 80
Carrot 250 / 200
Cauliflower 200 / 150
Cucumbers (large) 120 / 80
Cucumbers (small) 240 / 180
Eggplant 350 / 250
Garlic 500 / 400
Lemon 300 / 200
Lettuce (per one) 150 / 100
Marrow (large) 120 / 80
Marrow (small) 240 / 180
Onion (dry) 200 / 150
Orange 350 / 300
Pepper (hot) 200 / 150
Pepper (sweet) 300 / 250
Potato 300 / 250
Lentils 150 / 100
Sage 280 / 240
Tomatoes 230 / 180
Watermelon 270 / 220

هكذا من الأصل

Home News

QAF, UNICEF inspect living conditions in south

QAABA (Petra) — Aqaba district Governor Qufan Al Majali Sunday met in Wadi Araba with a joint team from Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The team is currently on a field visit in south Jordan to inspect the health and nutrition situation of children in the region, in preparation for launching a programme, aimed at addressing malnutrition.

The programme provides for offering special meals to children to protect them from early childhood diseases, resulting from malnutrition.

Mr. Majali and the team members reviewed the health and educational situation in Wadi Araba and briefed them on the living conditions of people in the area.

Meanwhile, the voluntary committee of Princess Basma Social Development Centre, in cooperation with the Jordan Medical and pharmacists associations organised a free medical day for Wadi Araba inhabitants. Patients calling at Princess Basma Centre received free treatment and drugs, donated by Aqaba district pharmacies and QAF.

Dughmi returns after attending ILO meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Dughmi returned home Sunday after taking part in the 78th session of the International Labour Organisation's conference, held in Geneva.

In an arrival statement, Mr. Dughmi, who headed the Jordanian delegation to the meetings said the Jordanian delegation had stressed the need for denouncing the Israeli oppressive measures against Palestinians and the discrimination policy Israel follows in the occupied Arab territories.

He added that the Jordanian delegation had called for setting up a special fund to pay compensation to workers returning from Kuwait and other Gulf countries, and for increasing the allocations of the Regional Office for Arab states.

Mr. Dughmi said that the Arab delegations taking part in the Geneva meetings had held several meetings to coordinate their stands vis-a-vis all issues on the meeting's agenda.

He also said that he had met, on the sidelines of the session, with Arab labour ministers attending the meetings and discussed with them the Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories.

King: Charter opens door for pluralism

(Continued from Page 1)

and Iraq during the Gulf crisis. "The imbalance in the pyramid of the working force and type of employment needed has also become more acute as a result of outdated social and cultural inhibitions which are no longer compatible with the requirements of our time," the King pointed out.

"We shall not be saved, for shall we gain anything by closing our eyes to what is happening around us, and how it affects us. We live in an age of science, and technology, and in a world of mutual interests. We live in the age of the quest for a better life, where human dignity and human rights are respected," he said.

But the strongest theme in the King's speeches was the rejection of single party rule or the imposition of the will of the majority over the minority.

"There is not a single party that can claim to possess truth. If such a party existed, it would be the enemy of the nation, of dialogue and of truth combined," the King said in the speech he delivered at the opening of the congress conference.

Referring to the prerequisites for real democracy, the King told the 2,000 delegates to the congress that "truth, in a democratic state, is not monopolised by an individual nor by a group. Truth, ultimately, is the product of a national dialogue leading to consensus."

"The framework of all this is freedom, which is the basis of dialogue, the basis of truth, and the basis of democracy," he said.

In the second speech, the King said that the next natural step will be to complete the establishment of political pluralism in two stages: Amend the law on the formation of political parties and to permit the formation of political parties in accordance with the anticipated legislation.

"Pluralism is the only guarantee against all forms of dictatorship and despotism, particularly despotism by the one-party," the King said in his first speech.

"We must work diligently to benefit from our experience and that of others. We must remember that despotism, isolationism, and social disharmony will only bring about more backwardness, more irrationality, and more dilapidation," King Hussein reiterated.



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Sunday tours a kindergarten opened by Al Zahra's Welfare Society (Petra photo)

Princess Basma opens kindergartens in Madaba

MADABA (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Sunday opened two kindergartens in Jiddah and Makawir villages, in Madaba district, and toured the various sections of the kindergartens.

The kindergartens were set up by Al Zahra's Welfare Society of Jabal Bani Hamideh.

During a tour in the two villages as well as Ballout village, Princess Basma called for intensifying governmental and non-governmental organisations' efforts to promote children and women welfare, noting in this regard the importance of public participation in the development process. She also stressed the need for utilising all available resources in projects benefiting women and children.

Al Zahra's Society President Hana Kurdi briefed Princess Basma on the purposes of establishing the kindergartens, and stressed the importance of coordinating governmental and non-governmental efforts to set up such projects.

She pointed out that the society planned to set up more kindergartens in other villages of Madaba district.

The society, which was established in 1987, focusses on maternal and child programmes as well as vocational training for women.

Princess Basma was accompanied on her visit by a number of officials in Madaba district.

Visiting writer and businessman eager to see Japanese investing in Jordan

Anti-Zionist Japanese denied entry into W. Bank

By Maha Addasi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A Japanese writer who is determined to give the people of Japan a clearer view of the political life in the West Bank was refused entry even though he had visited the West Bank 30 times before.

Dr. Masami Uno said he was blacklisted and denied entry into the West Bank.

He said his interest in the West Bank was mostly for the religious sites.

"I am interested in all the holy places in the West Bank and especially the places where Jesus Christ was born and started out. I feel that it is very wrong that the Israelis do not allow me to visit those places," Dr. Uno said.

Nevertheless, he admitted he was proud to know that he was blacklisted as it meant that people read his work.

"I wrote a book entitled 'If You Understand Jews You Understand The World' that was attacked by the New York Times magazine as being an anti-Semitic and anti Zionist." The commotion that resulted from the book was very good because that was when the Japanese began to understand the truth about Zionism. That is why I was blacklisted. When I tried to go to the West Bank and was refused entry, the rumours about me being blacklisted were confirmed and I was proud to know that they were true."

He continued saying that although media in Japan treats the situation in the West Bank in a balanced way, the media is controlled by people influenced by Zionist thought.

"Many businessmen have told me that the media handling is not accurate when it comes to coverage of the West Bank events," Dr. Uno said adding that he is glad people in Japan have started to realise that.

Dr. Uno said that he had decided to come to Amman for many reasons. He said that Japanese businessmen were interested in investing in Jordan, and he wanted to be the person to introduce these businessmen here for investment purposes.

He added that before visiting Jordan many Japanese businessmen showed interest in the Kingdom. "If these businessmen come to Jordan to invest I believe it would be a great opportunity for them to go to the West Bank as well," Dr. Uno said.

"I want them to see what is happening in the West Bank first hand."

Dr. Uno was in Jordan with his interpreter, harvyo Katayama and his secretary, Naomi Moriguchi, also with him was Dale Crowley Jr., who is a radio broadcaster in Washington DC for a daily programme on moral, political and Middle East issues.

Mr. Crowley has written anti-Zionist and Middle East books.

The group left Amman for Washington DC expressing satisfaction with the visit.

Western envoys in Lebanon

(Continued from Page 1)

"This is the first time that a British minister has been here since 1985 and you might say it has been too long. But the circumstances haven't been all that easy," said Hogg, protected by about 10 British embassy guards, Lebanese troops and policemen.

The missing Britons among the 12 western hostages in Lebanon are journalist John McCarthy kidnapped on the airport road in April 1986, Church of England envoy Terry Waite, who disappeared in January 1987, and retired pilot Jack Mann taken in May 1989.

Asked if he would negotiate with the kidnappers, Hogg said, "As you know the British government position has been a long established one that we make no deals over hostages. That has been our position for many years and it will remain so."

Waldheim in Iran

Austrian President Kurt Waldheim arrived in Tehran Sunday on the first visit to Iran by a western head of state since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

He was greeted at the airport by Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, the Iranian News Agency IRNA reported.

Waldheim, a former United Nations secretary-general who is largely shunned by western leaders because of his World War II

Refinery workers renew demands for higher pay

By Isam Qadmani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A dispute over payment between workers at the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company (JPRC) and the company management is resurfacing after a break of more than three years, with the workers demanding substantial increments in view of the rising cost of living in Jordan.

The workers are demanding that the management pay them JD 20 as a monthly cost of living allowance, and introduce other measures related to the health insurance scheme. They also demand that the company increase its contribution to the scheme's fund from 10 to 15 per cent.

In 1988, the JPRC workers union staged a strike to back demands for better pay, with the

help of the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions they were able to secure some of their demands. Workers say that the settlement came when the Kingdom was faced with difficult conditions they had to accept the limited pay increase.

The management says that sales of oil products have recently declined and this gives an indication that the revenues and the profits would not rise to the level of the previous years. Therefore, the management insists that it cannot give any raise to the workers.

The workers union was encouraged to make a bid for the increments this year in view of the liberal increments, given to senior company officials by the management, ranging from JD 20 to JD 200 as of April 1991.

The workers also say that they made their demands based on the company's large profits in 1989. They stress that they receive small wages for the amount of work they do compared with other government and private sectors institutions.

The workers union, which issued a statement outlining its demands, hinted that they could be pursuing a course other than mere protests should the management fail to meet the demands within two weeks from now.

The statement said that the management's rejection of the demands could only negatively reflect on the company's operations and remain a source of dispute and dissatisfaction.

The JPRC, which was established in 1956, is governed by a board of directors of 12. It has a paid up capital of JD 32 million.

Overtime allowance reinstated

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government will reinstate a 30 per cent allowance given to government officials doing overtime work at their departments, and the concerned employees will get the allowance as of this month provided they do at least eight hours of office work, an announcement said Sunday.

The announcement was made in a statement issued by the prime minister's office which said that the allowance would be the right of every employee if his or her department required extra duty, extending office hours to eight per day.

The measure applies to those employees who used to work under a system separate from that of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and who recently were included in the CSC system. Before joining the CSC system, these employees used to receive the 30 per cent allowance, but stopped receiving it when the working hours were reduced.

The statement also announced that employees of the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) will be working for eight hours a day, instead of seven and will be paid the 30 per cent allowance.

Normally, government offices open at eight in the morning and close at two in the afternoon. The departments which work overtime open at 7:30 a.m. and close at 3:30 p.m. Employees of other departments, like Jordan Radio, the post offices and hospitals, work day and night shifts, in accordance with a special arrangement by their managements.

SSC studies ways to secure health insurances

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Social Security Corporation (SSC) hopes to apply a health insurance scheme to benefit all citizens covered by the SSC law and studies on this subject, now under way, are expected to be completed before the end of 1991.

The announcement was made by SSC Director-General Mohammad Al Saqqaf who said that health insurance was one of the basic requirements of the SSC law but it had not been applied for more than 10 years since the SSC came into being.

Addressing a meeting of the heads of SSC departments, Mr. Saqqaf also announced that the corporation would open two new branches in Amman to cope with the increasing responsibilities in view of the huge increase of the number of beneficiaries.

He told the meeting that the SSC was seeking to establish an investment company with a number of financiers from Jordan and abroad, especially expatriates, in order to initiate income-generating projects in Jordan and find work for the unemployed.

"Currently the SSC is studying the prospect of setting up a hotel at the Dead Sea to serve as a therapeutic centre, plus two other hospitals in Amman and Irbid," he said.

According to SSC officials, the Dead Sea project would cost JD 12 million and would include a minimum of 10 per cent German equity. The Germans would also guarantee an annual 55 per cent occupancy rate for 10 years, they said.

Mr. Saqqaf told the Jordan Times last month that the SSC would be willing to invest in expanding projects or in setting up new enterprises provided that they show a high level of profitability or an acceptable level, of about seven per cent, for projects of socio-economic nature.

According to Mr. Saqqaf, the SSC investments now total about JD 400 million, of which about JD 136 million, or 34 per cent, are bank deposits.

Jordan to instal, expand power network in Yemen

SANAA (Petra) — The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) will implement part of a national grid project in Yemen at the cost of \$1.6 million plus 1.1 million Yemeni riyals under an agreement signed here between JEA and the Yemeni Electricity Corporation.

The project entails linking the power systems in the northern and southern parts of Yemen, a stretch of about 300 kilometres, through a 132 kilovolt network connecting Taaz and Aden and including five main transformer stations.

The agreement also provides for expanding the power network of Aden and Taaz and supplying electricity to nearly 14,000 subscribers in the first stage of an electrification project in Yemen.

The total cost of the project is estimated to reach \$70 million which will be supplied through a loan from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

JEA Director General Mohammad Saeed Arafah and Mohammad Abdul Aleem Alwan, deputy minister of electricity and water in Yemen, signed the agreement in the Yemeni capital and held talks to expand the current cooperation between the two countries in power-related fields, like power generation and distribution.

Talks also covered prospects for promoting joint cooperation in exploiting natural gas in Yemen to generate electricity, a technique similar to that followed by JEA at Al Rishah gas fields in Jordan.

Jordanian-Yemeni cooperation in power-related fields dates back to 1988 when JEA started training Yemeni personnel in Jordanian energy projects, and the two sides agreed on coordinating their efforts in the production of electrical appliances.

In 1989 the two sides signed an agreement providing for mutual cooperation in electricity generation, maintenance and management, the development of power generating units and setting up power control units, installing transformer stations and power networks.

62,000 students to sit for second part of 'tawjihi exams

AMMAN (J.T.) — More than 62,000 students who completed their secondary education are expected to sit for the second part of the tawjihi (secondary schools certificate examination) on Tuesday.

The examination, organised by the Ministry of Education in Jordan, will be taken by 62,749 male and female students in 837 examination halls in Jordan and one hall in Tunis for students following the Jordanian educational system, according to an official at the Ministry of Education.

The students will be sitting for the literary, scientific, commercial, agricultural, industrial, nursing and hotel management examination set by the ministry.

The official said that all arrangements had been made by the ministry for these examinations.

The first part of mid-year tawjihi examination, was taken by the same students in January of this year, and the final results will not be known until the end of July, well before the universities and community colleges reopen for the new academic year.

Ministry of Education Secretary-General Munther Al Masri said on Jordan Television Saturday evening that the sets of examinations for different subjects were prepared secretly by ministry-appointed teachers. He said that the process of marking and appraising of papers, followed by feeding the computers with the results, was conducted without any complications and was always correct.

Dr. Al Masri was replying to accusations by students and parents that the ministry's process of producing the result was at fault and that many students were shocked after being told by their teachers that they had done well, only to be faced with disappointing results.

Most of the students present on the television programme demanded that more time should be allowed by the ministry for the students to answer the questions, which, they said, more often than not, are above the standards of the students capabilities.

A great number of the students complained that they find special difficulty in answering the English language examination and Dr. Masri said that this point would be taken into consideration. "In fact, the ongoing educational reform programme has drawn up plans for downgrading what is believed by the students to be a high standard English examination," he said. Dr. Masri also announced that English would be one of the optional subjects.

A general conference, held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan in 1987, decided on a number of steps to be taken to overhaul the educational system in Jordan.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Princess Sarvath attends graduation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Sunday attended a ceremony held at the Plaza Hotel for the graduation of 24 students from the American Community School in Amman. Among those present at the ceremony were the students' parents, the U.S. ambassador and his wife, and other invited guests.

Martyrs' families rewarded

AMMAN (Petra) — On the anniversary of the Great Arab Revolt, which falls on June 10, the Public Security Department (PSD) will distribute a gift of JD 50 to each of the martyrs' families. The PSD, in a statement Saturday, invited the children of the martyrs to receive the gifts.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITION

- ★ Exhibition of photographs by Bernard Guilot at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Comprehensive book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Abdul Jabbar Salman at Alla Art Gallery, Insurance Building, 1st Circle.

FILM

- ★ French film entitled "Melodie en sous-sol" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

By Walid Sadi

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

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Social contract enacted

NOW THAT the National Charter has been duly adopted at a conference comprising representatives of the people, the stage is set for translating its ideals and principles into legislation. As His Majesty King Hussein has said Sunday, on the occasion of the adoption of the Charter, an entirely new era has been ushered into the country and the new epoch requires of all Jordanians ever more diligence and hardwork lest the democratic process in the Kingdom deviate from its course and plunge the country into a new political and social quagmire.

The King's speech also highlighted the decision to follow the democratic path in Jordan, a process he described as irreversible. "There is no return" from the democratic course, the King told the cheering audience. The monarch also emphasised that democracy played a main role in the national security of the Kingdom. The King emphasised the need to preserve pluralism in Jordanian democracy, which he described as indispensable and the best guarantee against the tyranny of the one party rule.

To be sure the translation of the articles of the Charter into deeds cannot be done in one giant leap but rather in a host of carefully taken steps leading to the final goal. In such a process, there will surely be much debate and arguments about the full intents and purposes of the various provisions of the Charter. In other words, the interpretation of the Charter will undergo much trials and tribulations in the course of the upcoming months and even years. Laws drafted in its wake will be gauged to determine whether they reflect faithfully the spirit of the Charter.

In this vein there will always be fears that the Charter will end up being encroached upon as the constitution of the land had been infringed upon repeatedly in the past and with impunity. The issue that would arise in this context is what judicial organ can be entrusted with the task of adjudicating the projected challenges to the sundry legislations that are expected to be enacted under its purview. The projected constitutional court will have jurisdiction over issues arising out of the constitution itself but not the Charter. And the fact that the Charter has no force of law would necessarily render the adjudication of disputes arising from it impractical. Of course, contestants can always fall back to the constitution which remains the basic organic law of the state.

Yet all such issues need not discourage Jordanians from attempting to govern themselves in accordance with the newly articulated standards. Being basically a code of conduct, or as the King repeatedly described it, a social contract, Jordanians of all walks of life and of all denominations and affiliations should have no trouble heeding this contract provided their will is to do just that. The country is blessed with so many time-honoured traditions that proved their worth and relevance ever since the Great Arab Revolt had set the stage for the establishment of the Hashemite Kingdom and the other Arab states in the region. The unwritten laws that form Jordan's common law have been in the making since independence and the new National Charter is but part of this process that Jordanians will zealously guard and promote.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

ALL three Jordanian Arabic dailies Sunday discussed the National Charter which will be announced by His Majesty King Hussein and said that the document marks a turning point in the history of the Jordanian state. The 2,000 personalities gathered to hear the King's speech and the birth of the charter represent all sectors of the public which is eager to see the charter that has been described as the proper tool to organise political pluralism in the Kingdom. Al Ra'i Arabic daily said, the charter, the paper said, underlines a host of basic principles and common grounds for all political groups and all sectors about which there can be no difference in views. The 60 members of the National Commission that prepared the charter were carefully chosen to represent all schools of thought and all political orientations in the country; and there is no doubt that their work reflects their aspirations and those of the Jordanian people, the paper noted. The paper described the charter as a national achievement at a moment when the Arab Nation in general and the Jordanians in particular are facing immense challenges. It said that the charter presents a common ground for action on the part of the various groups who can hold constructive dialogues for the sake of reaching the best formula to safeguard national interests.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily takes up the example of a Jordanian doctor who works in a garden after waiting for years for a job that never came. Ahmad Dhiban says the Jordanian doctor who prefers anonymity had graduated from Bulgaria and submitted one application after another to the Civil Service Commission and the Health Ministry to get a job anywhere in Jordan. The writer says he has received a letter from this Jordanian doctor informing him that his mother who had served as a cleaner at one of the girls schools can no more go to work as she is 67 years old and has become blind and that his father was a cleaner working for the Greater Amman Municipality. For this reason, this doctor decided to take up any kind of work, and now he is employed as a gardener working for a rich man in Amman, cutting the grass and digging to cover part of his daily expenses, says the writer. The writer expresses the view that Jordan abounds with young men and women who have completed their higher studies at the university but were unable to find work and had to turn to any job in order to make a living and become independent. The writer appeals to the Jordan medical association, the Health Ministry and the Civil Service Commission to try harder to find jobs for those who had applied for them for many years, and are in bad need of the work to support a needy family. He also appeals to unemployed Jordanians to take any job that can ensure at least the minimum level of income instead of remaining idle.

Weekly Political Pulse

UNDP is on the right track

IT IS high time that the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) made its aid to poor countries contingent on military spending curbs and progress towards the attainment of U.N. human rights standards. In its most recent report, UNDP head William Draper ventured to say something which was hitherto considered taboo and untouchable. He said point blank that lack of political commitment and not lack of financial resources is the root cause for the continuing despair in the developing countries and the real cause of human neglect. By naming the rising and wasteful military expenditures as the principal culprit for the cycle of despair and want in the poor countries of the world, he highlighted something that should have been mentioned a long time ago. He also called the inefficient public spending, the creation of prestige projects and the proliferation of corruption as also features of many poor countries which in their cumulative sense doom these countries to perpetual under-development and misery, in every sense of the word. Mr. Draper estimates that no less than \$50 billion are being misused in Third World countries. The UNDP chief also estimates that \$20 billion would be more than enough to address the basic human development needs of the peoples of such countries. For this purpose the UNDP has compiled a Human Development Index on which Japan and Canada are listed as spending most wisely.

As interesting and valuable is this UNDP exercise, it offers little more than already known and accepted propositions. There is hardly any country in the world which does not see the organic link between misuse of available funds, including exaggerated

military spending, and under-development which is the curse that has afflicted almost all of the developing states and doomed them to backwardness and deprivation.

What I find more interesting and relevant is the UNDP's Human Freedom Index which purports to establish a link between development and human rights. This is where the UNDP has cut new grounds for spelling out something that should have been said many decades ago. And for the UNDP, which enjoys a reputation for cold-blooded adherence to economic and financial objectives, to come out in the open and say out loud that economic development cannot be seriously pursued without respect for the international norms on human rights and that, henceforth, it will make human rights a specific criteria for extending assistance to poor and even rich countries, is truly something of a breakthrough for which the present leadership of the UNDP deserves every credit and appreciation.

The question that remains unanswered is why it took UNDP so long to establish the connection between human rights and economic development. In this context, Sweden was placed on the top of the honour list for having attained 38 out of 40 possible freedoms and rights chronicled in the Index.

This new UNDP perspective augurs well for the continuing campaign to create a universal culture for human rights. Mr. Draper and his colleagues would be well advised if they make their participation in the debate on human rights issues even more pronounced and accentuated. Until this point in time, UNDP involvement in the various U.N. fora on human rights has been

cloy and restricted to observing and taking notes at a time when it can take effective initiatives in most of these bodies. Take for example the U.N. Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, charged with the mandate of implementing the respect of the international Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Even in the U.N. Human Rights Committee, entrusted with the task of monitoring the adherence of states to the International Civil and Political Rights covenant there is room for the UNDP active participation. This is not to mention the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, its sub-commission and the various working groups created by them.

In the U.N. human rights jargon, it has often been said that whereas the countries of the world need time to develop economically and socially, there is no time constraints on the need to respect the minimal civil and political rights as spelled out in the various international instruments. This is where UNDP can pitch in and say its words of wisdom based on a wealth of experience in the field as well as in the offices of its headquarters in New York City. All such proposals suggest that UNDP should have a higher profile in the human rights debates in addition to its traditional role in discussions centered on disarmament. This higher profile requires in turn, a stronger publicity campaign to reflect faithfully what is being done behind closed doors.

All in all the UNDP is on the right track for highlighting the human rights issue in addition to disarmament and environment at a time when the foundation of democracy has become indispensable for economic development.

National Charter is social contract that will protect democracy, ensure political pluralism

The following is the text of His Majesty King Hussein's address to the opening of the Jordanian National Congress to endorse the National Charter convened June 9.

In the name of God the Compassionate, the Merciful.

MY brothers and sisters, members of the Jordanian National Congress.

We thank God for bringing us together, one people united in the goodness of our purpose. I am happy to welcome you today and to convey through you, to all the people of Jordan, my great appreciation and pride. We are united in our determination to take a new stride in the life of our nation, a step which brings us closer to the aims which we have identified together. We take this step under the umbrella of a national consensus that the political process of parliamentary democracy is irreversible. We proceed along this path steadily, and with awareness and a sense of responsibility, which proved the soundness of our choice and gave us the confidence in our ability to face the challenge of change to the better. We have risen to every challenge that has faced our nation bravely and responsibly.

We meet today at a time when our nation stands at a critical and dangerous crossroad. The path which we select will decide the future of this country and its ability to interact successfully or otherwise with the emerging new world order. There is not a single state in the world, no matter how big or powerful, that can live in isolation from the influence of other states. All states together form a network of complex relations, dictated by mutual dependence, irrespective of the states' individual willingness or unwillingness to interact with others. We should remember that we,

as members of the international community, have responsibilities over and above our national and pan-Arab duties. We have a responsibility to bear the message of the goodness, justice and equality, for the glory of our nation and of mankind.

Brothers and sisters,

Since our decision to resume the democratic process the achievements of our country have been a source of pride. We take pride in the efforts of the political and intellectual forces in our country, but primarily we take pride in the awareness, responsibility, and vigilance of our citizens when our democratic process faced the gravest challenge possible, that of the Gulf crisis. Our democracy has emerged from the test not only unscathed, but more solid.

We resumed the democratic process at a difficult time of the life of our nation: The world had just emerge from the Cold War. Many nations, ours included, found themselves facing a new situation and many possibilities. The disappearance of disputes between the Eastern and Western camps, and the changes in international relations which this development introduced, caused various countries to reorient themselves either towards self-reliance, or towards coalescing into groupings based on regional, economic, or national considerations, or a combination of these considerations. In Jordan, escalating political and economic pressures put us before a major challenge which seemed to exceed our abilities. Nevertheless, our decision to resume the democratic process, and our determination to proceed along this path despite the pressures and challenges, attest to our resolve, and to the soundness of our judgment and direction. The unfolding events have proven that democracy is truly the third pillar of our national security, and the

solid foundation on which to build a united and proud nation whose intrinsic strength, is the collective will of its people.

It was clear to us from the beginning that true democracy to be real should meet all the following prerequisites:

1. Separation between the executive, legislative, and judicial authorities. We have always been careful to maintain this separation, and we shall uphold it in accordance with the constitution. Each one of these authorities must realise its limits and not trespass on the domain of another authority.

2. Holding general parliamentary elections in accordance with the law. This is what we accomplished in November 1989, when the elections were held in an atmosphere of fairness, freedom, and honest competition.

3. The practice of national politics on the basis of pluralism in accordance with the principle of constructive dialogue which is the distinctive feature of democratic life. Truth, in a democratic state, is not monopolised by an individual nor by a group. Truth, ultimately, is the product of a national dialogue leading to consensus.

In order to allow for and protect political pluralism, and by extension, to protect democracy, it was necessary to lay down a national charter which would be the national, conceptual and referential document for political action in Jordan.

Hence, the Royal Commission for Drafting the National Charter was formed on April 9, 1990. The completion of the Commission's work marks another major step towards democracy. We meet today to present the Charter to you, or, more precisely, to all the citizens whom you represent either by virtue of your positions, or by your selection to different popular functions. We were careful that the Commission should

represent the people in all their intellectual and political schools of thought, as well as their economic, social, and academic dimensions, the bedouin and urban populations, Muslims and Christians, deputies and senators, men and women. Therefore, the draft Charter which we now present to you is the product of a sincere intellectual effort. It took all the attention, care, and devotion of the members of the Royal Commission, to produce this document. Commitment to its content, and acting in accordance with its guidance, will constitute the sound basis for political pluralism, which will complete the prerequisites of our democratic process, and through which we shall realise one of our most noble ambitions, which is to build a model nation. This document is not merely a working manual. It is the umbrella under which we unite. It is not merely an expression of various common denominators of our political thoughts. It is the common denominator for us all, defining that which does not bear controversy in building the nation for which we aspire, consolidating national unity which is the guarantee of our strength, and narrowing the gaps between our efforts, so that they can all be channelled for the higher interest of the nation. The consensus over our basic precepts and objectives, which are both beyond doubt, necessitates the we draft a social contract that guides us and constitutes the yardstick by which we measure, over the stretch between our precepts and objectives.

Our national consensus, which is founded on, and strengthened by our democratic process, enabled us to take the position of our choice, thus reflecting the hopes, aspirations, and essence of the people of Jordan. We realise now that democracy is the force that cannot weaken. It alone is capable of building a united and resolute Jordan, which belongs to all its people, and which enjoys the loyalty, and resolve of all its people.

We have been united by the challenges and pressures into one line of confrontation. Dangers and unjust onslaughts against us have closed our ranks against the covetous, and forged us into one family that sees its real honour, prosperity, and happiness in loyalty to a nation that respects its freedom, its Arab Islamic heritage, and its human message. In the face of all this, you bear a great and historic responsibility to support the National Charter, so we can proceed to the next stage of our democratic process, the stage of pluralism which will be signified by the formation of political parties.

I do not wish to go into details here. This is your responsibility which I am confident that you will execute with care and alertness. If we agree that democracy is the practice of dialogue which precedes consensus, I am certain that

continuous challenges and their consequences, till it has become a source of pride to us. By the grace of God, every attempt to weaken us only makes us stronger. Our resolve is burdened by our trials, and our loyalty to our nation intensifies whenever it is tested. Despite the injustice and the misunderstanding which we have suffered, we remain confident that truth and goodwill will triumph in the end. Therefore, our great responsibilities towards our nation, our people, and mankind are more certain now than ever before.

Our national consensus, which is founded on, and strengthened by our democratic process, enabled us to take the position of our choice, thus reflecting the hopes, aspirations, and essence of the people of Jordan. We realise now that democracy is the force that cannot weaken. It alone is capable of building a united and resolute Jordan, which belongs to all its people, and which enjoys the loyalty, and resolve of all its people.

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I do not wish to go into details here. This is your responsibility which I am confident that you will execute with care and alertness. If we agree that democracy is the practice of dialogue which precedes consensus, I am certain that

you realise that this dialogue is concerned primarily with the search for truth and a consensus over it. There is not a single party that can claim to possess truth. If such a party existed, it would be the enemy of the nation, of dialogue, and of truth combined. The framework of all this is freedom, which is the basis of dialogue, the basis of truth, and the basis of democracy.

Brothers and sisters, members of the Jordanian National Congress

Jordan, which we all love, and for which we have all worked, stands with you today at the threshold of a new era. Whether we are successful in traversing it depends on our common awareness that democracy cannot be complete without political pluralism. Pluralism is the only guarantee against all forms of dictatorship and despotism, particularly "despotism by the one-party". The guarantee of the success of pluralism lies in its respect of the constitution, and in accepting the guidance of a clear, practical, and comprehensive guide. This guide is the National Charter which is the product of an extensive and deep dialogue between representatives of the different political and intellectual orientations in Jordan.

I salute you again, brothers and sisters, and I pray to God to grant you success in your task. I also look forward to your endorsement of the National Charter which would highlight your respect for human rights. It would achieve a victory for the fortitude of Jordan, the unity of its people, and the dignity of your children and grandchildren, in a proud, secure, and free country. It would consolidate and protect the foundations of political pluralism which would complete our democratic process. I pray to God to guide and assist us to fulfill his wish and to act for the benefit of our country and people. May God protect and keep you.

Endorsement of Charter paves the way for pluralism

The following is the full text of the address made by His Majesty King Hussein after the endorsement of the National Charter by the Jordanian National Congress on June 9.

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Ladies and gentlemen, members of the Jordanian National Congress.

My dear brothers and sisters, We thank God for guiding us to do what satisfies Him, for uniting us in seeking the good of our country and people, and for uniting us in a pledge of cooperation, and mutual support. I thank you sincerely for blessing the National Charter and endorsing it. I am confident that every Jordanian shares with me, in this historic moment, feelings of happiness, appreciation, and gratitude for your national decision. The decision which you have made today signifies many great things, primarily that our democratic process is consolidating and taking root, and that our democratic institutions are on their way to completion.

You have demonstrated the deep level of awareness and national commitment which I always trusted you to possess. From this day the National Charter becomes a pledge that binds

us, and a trust which we shall keep and protect, with the assistance and guidance of God.

Your endorsement of the National Charter signifies that the path of political pluralism is now clear, free from pitfalls and deviations. Since the constitution is the foundation of the state and the fence that safeguards it, so the National Charter is its conceptual reference in the process of nation building and the quest for progress. The next natural step will be to complete the establishment of political pluralism, which will be done in two stages:

1. To amend the law on the formation of political parties in accordance with the rules of the constitution, and under the guidance of the principles of the National Charter.

2. To permit the formation of political parties in accordance with the anticipated legislation on political parties. I hope that our national political arena will not see a profusion of political parties, because overcrowding impedes progress.

Brothers and sisters,

Today, as we cross a new threshold in the progress of Jordan and its political development, we must be conscious of the fear of God and the interest of the nation. We must focus our attention on the serious challenges facing us, and the danger-

ous problems accompanying them. We have a great deal of work to do, demanding reflection, respect of the rational process, confluence of opinions, and the closing of the ranks. The persistent financial problem and the economic crisis with its resultant social problems, remain the top priorities of our national political agenda. Naturally, your are aware of the reasons why these problems have escalated. Some of these reasons are structural, related to the imbalance between our population and resources, mainly water. Others are exogenous, such as the effects of the Gulf crisis.

The manifestations of these problems are numerous and well known to you. The most obvious and painful, perhaps, is the rise in the number of people living below the poverty line which has reached a third of the Kingdom's population. Another is the rise in unemployment to a terrifying level, amounting to 20 per cent, after Jordan had received the third wave of mass immigrants in less than forty years. The imbalance in the pyramid of the working force and type of employment needed has also become more acute as a result of outdated social and cultural inhibitions which are no longer compatible with the requirements of our time.

Democracy must not be mistaken for irresponsible freedom. It is not a licence for libel and defamation. It is not a licence to cross the demarcation lines separating authorities. It is not a silk cloak under which to conceal poisoned daggers. It is not an invitation for each of the authorities to set traps for the other at the expense of the public good,

instead of cooperating to promote it. It is not an umbrella for terrorising the minds of others. It is not the means for the despotism of a majority against a minority. That would lead to anarchy which would kill democracy and bring about the ruin of the land and people.

A democratic society is one that respects the law, because it is the lawmaker. A democratic society is one of free but responsible dialogue. A democratic society is one that allows for a multiplicity of opinions, on conditions of everyone respecting the opinions of others and being committed to the public good. A democratic society is free from intimidation which expunges creativity and excellence from society. A democratic society free from despotism which paralyzes it. A democratic society is one of competition free from violence, fanaticism, vindictiveness, hatreds and vendettas.

In order to protect democracy and political pluralism, and to avoid all the pitfalls which I have mentioned, we have succeeded, with God's help, in drafting the National Charter. Nevertheless, we must not delude ourselves into thinking that democracy will be safe and sound as long as its forms are in place. The Constitution and the National Charter, and the laws and legislations that emanate from them, are all im-

portant building blocks of the state of law and democratic society. No less important, however, are the citizens, in every place and institution, since they embody democracy in every word and deed.

I have watched closely the progress of the democratic process since the elections of 1989, and it has been, in general, satisfactory. This, in my opinion, has been due to newness of the experiment. From now on, we are all duty-bound to correct any deviations until the experiment settles to its natural path and becomes an integral part of our lives. Monitoring the process of democratisation and rectifying it is a collective responsibility which includes the executive and legislative branches, and particularly a free press.

History teaches us that democracy, when rife with vindictiveness, and anarchy, almost destroyed even its first birthplace, which was the state of Athens at the peak of its greatness under Pericles. Democracy was then practiced with vindictiveness and as a quest to settle feuds rather than in pursuit of the public good. I mention this only to stress that the threat to democracy can come primarily from people who shield themselves behind it, and who

(Continued on page 5)

مكثراً من الأصل

Features

Charter is methodical approach for reforms in all fields

The following is the text of the address made by Mr. Ahmad Obeidat, chairman of the Royal Commission for Drafting the National Charter to the Jordanian National Congress on June 9.

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Your Majesty, Ladies and gentlemen, members of the Jordanian National Congress,

Permit me on this occasion to salute our leader, His Majesty King Hussein, and to express, in the name of the Royal Commission for Drafting the National Charter, our enormous pleasure on the convening of this congress. We shall present to you the Draft National Charter after the Commission completed drafting it, and after I have had the honour of submitting it to His Majesty the King on 30 December, at the conclusion of a comprehensive dialogue that lasted eight months.

Seventy years have passed since the state was founded. We now live in the forty fifth year since independence, and we stand in all contentment, appreciation, and pride, united behind our Hashemite leadership. We stand in reverence of the early founders, the leaders of the Great Arab Revolt, the martyrs of our nation, who sacrificed for the noble principles and gave their lives for Arab dignity and unity.

As we stand at the threshold of a critical phase of the history of our country and nation, our faith that God will grant us success is infinite, as is our confidence in the ability of our people to continue working for a better future full of good intentions and honest endeavour.

You are aware, ladies and gentlemen, that the hallmarks of a sound society are respect for human rights and the rule of reason and good charter. The progress of a nation is a function of its ability to achieve and evolve, to interact effectively with the issues of the present and the challenges of the future, and to make the changes necessary for progress while preserving its cultural identity.

Jordanians have proven by their keen awareness and the strength of their resolve, that

they are capable of surmounting difficulties to continue the process of nation-building, and benefiting from the experience of other nations. They have proven that they are worthy of a dignified life in freedom, where they look forward to a better future, ready to shoulder their responsibilities, eager to protect their national unity, and develop their constitutional process, faithful to their Islamic religion, committed to keeping abreast with, and contributing to civilisation. They have proven themselves committed to build a democratic, secure, responsible, and prosperous society to which all citizens contribute with a sense of responsibility. Ladies and gentlemen, members of the Jordanian National Congress,

We live in an age where the need for organised and responsible political action is greater than at any time. The concept of the National Charter came to life with the dawn of democracy in this country. The general parliamentary elections at the end of 1989 were a democratic achievement, following which the idea of the Charter was crystallised. Therefore, His Majesty King Hussein decreed the formation of the Royal Commission for Drafting the National Charter. The outcome was the draft charter which the Commission presented to you in 1990, and which constitutes a comprehensive futuristic outlook to develop the creativity of Jordanians, and an advanced stride towards freeing national action from doubts and stagnation. It aims to develop popular participation and the exercise of political pluralism. Based on it, national political organisations and parties will be formed, which are bound by the constitution and by legitimacy, which believe in the democratic process, and which respect the rules of democracy, as they believe in reform and progress at all levels. These parties and organisations will be committed to national security and interest, and they will participate positively in safeguarding the basic rights of all citizens, which will consolidate democracy and protect human rights in a positive atmosphere of freedom, responsibility, and equal opportunities.

Since the Constitution is the base, the Charter drew from its constants in defining the nature of the government and people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. It stated the necessity of commitment to these constants and legitimacy, in order to strengthen the unity of the people and leadership of Jordan. The Royal Commission for Drafting the National Charter as it joins the people of Jordan in taking pride in the constitution, and in their concern to respect and preserve its sanctity, emphasises its clear understanding of, and conviction in the points and proposals in the

second chapter of the Charter, which are aimed at consolidating the underpinnings of the state of law, were specific and in their correct framework. They are definitive, and they reassert the basic tenets of the Constitution and the continued validity of its rules that relate to these tenets.

To explain this concept further, the Commission sees that the basic underpinnings and future outlook of the Charter, are but a confirmation of the constitutional constants that define the type of government and the basic pillars of the political order of the state, and define the demarcation lines between the three authorities with precision and balance, in all the rights and duties outlined in the Constitution, without contravening any of these constants, thus they constitute the basic underpinning of the political, economic, and social order of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and they embody the country's unity and stability.

The Charter lays down a number of concepts, values, and rules to regulate national action and outline the path forward. Its starting point is faith in God and respect for the spiritual values and beliefs of all. It asserts that Islamic Shariah is the basic source of law, and that Arab Islamic civilisation is the basis of the national and pan-Arab identity of Jordanians, and a main pillar of its unity, independence, and progress. The Charter elevated the status of the Arabic language to its rightful place by asserting its supremacy in Jordanian society at all levels, and asserted its adoption as the language of instruction at all levels. The Charter also called for developing the language, modernising its teaching methods, encouraging the movement to Arabic and translate material from and to Arabic, and encouraging publication in Arabic in various fields of science, art, and literature.

The Charter also crystallised the concept of social justice as one of the national objectives of the Jordanian state and society, in accordance with the spirit of the constitution and to realise the good of the majority. The Charter makes commitment to the principles and requirements of social justice a framework of the

exercise of democracy, and basic pillar of the state of law and political pluralism. The Charter considers the realisation of equality and justice and equal opportunities between all citizens, men and women, among the main safeguards of the democratic process.

After defining the main parameters within which the national economy functions, and the bases of the future outlook for socioeconomic development in the country, the Charter stressed the importance of the independence of economic decision and their institutionalisation. It highlighted the role of national will in developing a national productive infrastructure through optimal exploitation of resources, building the economy in the Jordanian countryside, adopting the principle of self reliance to free Jordanians for the quest of excellence, and realising complementarity between the political, economic, and social independence in the country.

In view of the escalation of environmental problems and their effects on humanity, and in view of the linkage between the human environment and the policies adopted by countries to protect their resources and rationalise their exploitation, and to check the deterioration that threatens their survival, and recovery, the Charter was forward looking in stating that a clean and balanced environment is one of human rights and a right of citizenship. It made the preservation of the environment in Jordan and its protection against all forms of pollution a national duty for the good of present and future generations.

Since the National Charter starts from the Koranic base in respecting the humanity of mankind and protecting human dignity, the Charter makes this the focus of all activities of the state and society in Jordan. This is considered the basis for raising sound and productive individual and the strong and cohesive family where motherhood takes its rightful place and childhood receives adequate care and security, without distinction between males and females.

The outlook of the Charter appears at its most civilised in reference to the process of nation building and the quest for progress.

King Hussein said: "I thank you sincerely for blessing the National Charter. I am confident that every Jordanian shares with me in this historic moment, feelings of happiness and appreciation and gratitude for your national decision. The decision which you have made today signifies many great things primarily that our democratic process is consolidating and taking root and that our democratic institutions are on their way to completion."

The National Charter comprises eight chapters dealing with the reason for introducing the charter itself, political pluralism Jordan's national security, economy, social affairs, culture and education, Jordanian-Palestinian relations and Jordan's relations with Arab, Islamic and foreign countries.

He stressed that "the principles of the Great Arab Revolt were to link the process of education and production and meet the country's needs of qualified manpower. The Charter highlighted the prominent central role of science and technology in developing Jordanian society, dealing with its problems, developing the natural resources of the country, and linking the realisation of these objectives with the existence of national will and a clear political decision embodied by capable institutions and open minded directorships to bring about modernisation in the framework of a developed education system in the Kingdom.

The Charter realised the real link between these dimensions and the media and others means of popular communication, and the importance of their role in developing the consciousness of the citizen, his outlooks, positions, values, as well as their role in expanding the horizons of knowledge among the public. It laid down an advanced outlook for the principles and bases of the Jordanian media, which consist of freedom and national responsibility, respect for truth and the values of the nation, highlighting the role of the mind in the progress of society, securing the rights of citizens for accurate information, securing their participation in the policies of national direction, and laying down the legislation necessary to achieve these objectives.

Since Jordan and Palestine are one Arab condition, the Charter devoted a special chapter to the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship in which it expresses the reality of this relationship and its historic and day-to-day underpinnings, in their national, pan-Arab, and international dimensions. It laid down a unitary basis for the development of this relationship which highlights its uniqueness in the past and future, and guarantees its continuity in clarity, for the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination on their national soil, to support their steadfastness under occupation, and to realise Jordanian national unity as well as the commitment to Jordanian national security under all conditions and to enhance the joint struggle of Jordanians and Palestinians in facing the Zionist expansionist

designs and national challenges. In the final chapter the Commission laid down its outlooks on the dimensions of the relationships between Jordan and Arab and Islamic countries and other countries. It defined the bases and outlooks of this relationship and the consequent change of commitments on the various levels, in accordance with the geographic and political position of Jordan and to promote its national identity as a member of the United Nations. It guaranteed the continuity of Jordan's contribution to the formation of international relations based on mutual respect between nations and their independence and right to self-determination, as well as the commitment to the principles of right, justice, equality, and just peace between nations, respect for human rights and rejection of discrimination, and international hegemony in all their forms.

In conclusion, the Royal Commission for Drafting the National Charter, having outlined the summary of its work to your Congress, sees that this document is a methodical approach for reform in all fields. It constitutes a national accord between the various political outlooks in the country, and a consensus on the common denominators of the various political and conceptual outlooks and national opinions. As such, it constitutes another link in our democratic process complementing the ones that preceded it, and connected to those that will follow. If you decide to endorse this draft, the National Charter will belong to the whole nation. Every generation has the right to lay down the charters that it believes will realise national, pan-Arab, and human objectives of all segments of Jordanian society.

On this historic occasion, we are called on to shoulder our responsibilities and work diligently to build our nation through our strong faith, and advanced scientific accomplishments, looking forward to the future, aware of every enlightened human experience, confident of ourselves, the nobility of our people and the unity of our glorious Arab nation, keeping our faith in God alone, confident of the inevitability of the triumph of right no matter how far in the future.

among the main underpinnings of the National Charter and of its basic nationalistic and progressive tenets."

Obeidat said that the National Charter ties a firm bond between commitment to the rules of the constitution in the work of the three branches of government on the one hand, and on the other, respect for human rights and freedoms, work to consolidate and safeguard the democratic process, and continuous and balanced national development.

According to Obeidat, the charter considers the bond of citizenship as the basis for the relationship between all Jordanians.

Since April of last year Royal Commission members have been holding series of meetings to reach common ground on which to build on and eventually finalise the National Charter. (see

reference to the process of nation building and the quest for progress.

Charter paves way for pluralism

(Continued from page 4)

abuse democracy in the very name of democracy, whether they do so deliberately or inadvertently. Democracy does not consist merely of institutions. It is a tradition and a way of life that distinguishes society.

I make this clear reference to emphasise that the nation comes first and foremost. Every political party that comes to life in democracy and under its protection, must necessarily be a national party in its basic tenets, objectives, methods, funding and affiliation. Any departure from this fact would not only be a violation of democracy, but an act against the nation. This, of course would not prevent a party from having a pan-Arab or pan-human dimension, but true nationalism must

always be the real criterion for political action on the national, pan-Arab, or human levels.

We must remember that it is only natural for a nation to have its own priorities according to its resources, size, demography, and responsibilities. Just as others do not allow us to define their priorities for them, we allow none to define ours. The possibility of a confluence of priorities and objectives between Arab states, or some of them, opens the door for the confluence of thought between various parties, without sacrificing one's national interest. What is not permissible is the development of a state of party subservience to outsiders. Should this happen, the party would then lose its national character

and violate the principles of the National Charter.

Perhaps the best remarks with which to conclude my address to you on this historic national occasion, as we stand on the threshold of practising political pluralism are those of the founder of the Kingdom, my grandfather, the late King Abdullah may he rest in peace. This is part of his address to the members of the first elected Jordanian House of Deputies, on October 20, 1947.

"There is no doubt that all people are born free, and that no one may usurp or contravene any of their rights, because God has protected everyone's rights from others. Similarly, we must not misinterpret freedom and commit the mistake of others, where everyone acts of his own volition and proceeds to contravene the rights and integrity of other people, seeking to justify such acts in the name of freedom. Freedom protects people from other people. There should not be lies, slander, and aggression, but brotherhood, equality, and compassion. Nations become free when they enrich their freedom with the nobility of their ideals and harmonious fraternity, seeking to protect their rights through law and order, compassionately and in peace, each within his rights, which must be protected without hesitation or delay. Everybody is free as long as he respects the freedom of others. He becomes an aggressor the moment he contravenes against the rights of others."

I repeat my thanks to you and I pray to God to grant me and you guidance and wisdom. May God's peace and blessings be with you.

2,000 delegates bless National Charter

(Continued from Page 1)

and with no opposition by senators, parliament members, representatives of professional and trade unions, elected municipal and village councils, journalists, writers, prominent personalities representing popular groups in urban and rural regions and the badia as well as cabinet members and senior officials.

Voting was conducted through standing up, and all the members of the audience including His Majesty King Hussein stood up in a show of unanimous support for the National Charter.

Expressing appreciation to the audience for blessing the charter, King Hussein said: "Your endorsement of the National Charter signifies that the path of political pluralism is now clear, free from pitfalls and deviations. Since the Constitution is the foundation of the state and the fence that safeguards it, so the National Charter is its conceptual

reference to the process of nation building and the quest for progress."

King Hussein said: "I thank you sincerely for blessing the National Charter. I am confident that every Jordanian shares with me in this historic moment, feelings of happiness and appreciation and gratitude for your national decision. The decision which you have made today signifies many great things primarily that our democratic process is consolidating and taking root and that our democratic institutions are on their way to completion."

The National Charter comprises eight chapters dealing with the reason for introducing the charter itself, political pluralism Jordan's national security, economy, social affairs, culture and education, Jordanian-Palestinian relations and Jordan's relations with Arab, Islamic and foreign countries.

In his address to present the

charter, Commission Chairman Obeidat described it as laying down a number of concepts, values and rules to regulate national action and outline the path forward for the nation.

Based on the charter, Obeidat noted, national political organisations and parties will be formed, which are bound by the constitution and by legitimacy which believe in democratic process and which respect the rules of democracy.

Obeidat also noted that in analysing the nature of political development in the Kingdom, the Royal Commission, which was entrusted with its task in April of 1990, sought illumination from the process of national struggle of the Jordanian people and the historic depth of its leadership at all stages."

He stressed that "the principles of the Great Arab Revolt were

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Economy

Financial Markets Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank Weekly F.X. Market Summary (June 3-June 7, 1991)

THE U.S. dollar traded within narrow margins during most of last week's trading sessions, as the market awaited the release of U.S. employment figures for May. It dropped to its lowest levels Tuesday, but then rose gradually until Friday, when it rallied sharply in New York after the release of better than expected employment data.

The dollar closed marginally higher Monday, reaching its highest levels during early New York trading hours, after news that the National Association of Purchasing Management's index rose to 45.4% in May, compared to 42.1% in April. It received a further lift from a 0.8% rise in April construction spending in the U.S. But fear of central bank intervention capped the dollar's rise, giving way to profit taking, and ending the dollar's rally.

The dollar fell further Tuesday as dealers continued to liquidate long dollar positions for fear of central bank intervention. A brief dollar rally took place in New York after U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady was reported as saying that he was satisfied with the dollar's current levels. The comments indicated to the market that the Bush administration may tolerate higher dollar levels. But the dollar's failure to breach resistance at 1.7500 marks later that day, caused a new wave of profit taking. The dollar then closed at its lowest levels for the week at (1.7445/55) yen and at (1.6990/00) dollars to the sterling pound.

The dollar rallied again Wednesday, after comments from Federal Reserve (Fed) Board Chairman Alan Greenspan at a monetary conference in Osaka, Japan. The Fed chairman was reported to have said that "the probability of a stronger than expected (U.S. economic) recovery is rising slightly." The dollar rose strongly after these comments, but failure to breach resistance at 1.7500 marks for the second day in a row caused yet another round of profit-taking. The dollar closed slightly higher in New York, compared to its closing levels the previous day, however.

The Wednesday rally continued on Thursday, as dealers took long dollar positions in anticipation of the release of U.S. employment figures for May the next day. The market anticipated a drop of (89000) in non-farm payrolls, while observers maintained that as long as unemployment remained below (7%), the data would be interpreted as positive for the dollar.

Friday witnessed a strong dollar rally, as bullish sentiment about the direction of the U.S. economy was reinforced by better than expected U.S. employment data for May. Non-farm payrolls did not decrease, but rather increased by (59000), while the unemployment rate rose to (6.9%), from (6.6%) in April. The data was seen by the market as further confirmation that the U.S. economy is on its way towards recovery, in view of the release of several positive economic indicators in the past two weeks. Accordingly, the dollar closed at its highest levels for the week at (1.7715/25) marks, (140.42/52) yen and at (1.6705/25) dollars to the sterling pound.

The dollar is expected to rise further in the week ahead. Some dealers maintained that after finally breaching resistance at (1.76) marks and (140) yen, the U.S. currency could go as high as (1.80) marks and (142) yen, if the central banks fail to intervene again next week.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	31/5/1991 Close	7/6/1991 Close	Percent Change
Sterling Pound	1.6775	1.6710	- 1.56%
Deutsche Mark	7.7425	7.7720	- 1.66%
Swiss Franc	1.4855	1.5182	- 2.15%
French Franc	5.9075	6.0020	- 1.57%
Japanese Yen	138.35	140.47	- 1.51%

**USD Per STG
Euro-Currency Interest Rates***

Currency	31/5/1991 1-Month (%)	7/6/1991 1-Month (%)	31/5/1991 1-Year (%)	7/6/1991 1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	5.81	6.43	6.00	6.87
Sterling Pound	11.43	10.93	11.50	10.81
Deutsche Mark	8.75	9.00	8.87	9.00
Swiss Franc	7.87	7.68	8.12	7.81
French Franc	9.25	9.18	9.56	9.43
Japanese Yen	7.81	7.31	7.81	7.31

**Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin
Date: 9/6/1991**

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.684	.686
Sterling Pound	1.1418	1.1475
Deutsche Mark	.3854	.3875
Swiss Franc	.4500	.4525
French Franc	.1138	.1144
Japanese Yen	.4869	.4893
Dutch Guilder	.3423	.3440
Swedish Krona	.1076	.1081
Italian Lira	.0520	.0523
Belgian Franc	.01874	.01883

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent

Currency	31/5/1991 1-Month (%)	7/6/1991 1-Month (%)	31/5/1991 1-Year (%)	7/6/1991 1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	5.81	6.43	6.00	6.87
Sterling Pound	11.43	10.93	11.50	10.81
Deutsche Mark	8.75	9.00	8.87	9.00
Swiss Franc	7.87	7.68	8.12	7.81
French Franc	9.25	9.18	9.56	9.43
Japanese Yen	7.81	7.31	7.81	7.31

Soviet economist predicts economic collapse without a free market system

LONDON (R) — The Soviet Union faces economic collapse unless it escapes from the grip of old ideologies and embraces a free market system, President Mikhail Gorbachev's former economic adviser has said in a newspaper article.

"If we do not come to our senses, if we do not end this pagan dance, then economic collapse will be inevitable," Mr. Stanislav Shatalin wrote in Britain's Independent newspaper.

As President Mikhail Gorbachev appealed for Western aid to prop up the Soviet economy, Mr. Shatalin argued there could be no free market within a communist perspective.

He accused the Soviet government of "fiscal theft" on raising retail prices and said the country could not hope to attract foreign investment before achieving political stability.

"The economy, as a working entity, simply does not exist," wrote Mr. Shatalin, author of the so-called 500-day programme for market reform which was commissioned by President Gorbachev but dropped at the end of last year.

He said the Soviet economy was "ideologically bankrupt."

Even by official figures, national income fell 12 per cent in the first quarter of 1991. There was no consumer market "except the blackmarket. Barter reigns," Mr. Shatalin wrote.

"We need to construct a real infrastructure for the market, in land, housing, labour and property. Without such change—and of course without political stability—it would be foolish to expect Western capital to become less cautious," he noted.

Currency reform had rendered the rouble worthless and shattered confidence.

President Gorbachev is trying to force compromises with the Soviet republics, including Russia led by radical Boris Yeltsin, on market-based economic reforms and a decentralised federation.

Mr. Shatalin said the government's anti-crisis economic rescue plan adopted earlier this year after the 500-day programme was rejected, "was clearly not up to the task."

He said President Gorbachev's approach of a new union with the republics was the best way forward.

"We need not just a coalition government, but one that would have the trust of different ethnic groups," Mr. Shatalin said.

President Gorbachev will attend next month's Group of Seven (G7) economic summit in London in his search for aid.

But several Western leaders have called for aid to be tied to guarantees that free market reforms will be carried through, adding that they were unwilling to subsidise the current system.

In a speech in Oslo Wednesday President Gorbachev vowed to pursue democratic reforms but said the Soviet Union would not let Western nations try to force it to copy their systems.



Stanislav Shatalin

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Greek austerity measures to cut inflation and lower deficits

ATHENS (R) — Greek inflation fell in May and the country's current account deficit narrowed sharply in April, according to figures which suggested tough government austerity measures were starting to show results.

Provisional figures published by the Bank of Greece showed the month-on-month deficit fell to \$171 million in April from \$728 million in March and \$544.3 million a year earlier.

Inflation was also lower, with the year-on-year consumer price index at 18.4 per cent in May compared with 21.5 per cent in April.

Greece has the European Community's highest inflation rate, but aims to get it below 17 per cent by the end of the year.

"The drop is within government forecasts," a government spokesman said.

Greece is nearly half-way through an unpopular three-year austerity programme imposed by the ruling conservatives after they came to power in April 1990. Taxes and prices have risen.

Bank sources said the marked improvement in the balance of payments was due to an increase in European Community transfers and emigrant remittances.

It was also helped by the first drop in the trade deficit three years.

While year-on-year imports rose only by 2.2 per cent in April, exports were up by 23.1 per cent. Invisible receipts rose by 38.8 per cent, including a 36.4 per cent rise in EC transfers.

The improvement in balance of payments suggested that Greece's annual deficit might stay below \$3 billion in 1991 against \$3.59 billion in 1990, bank sources said.

Improving deficits and inflation were some of the conditions imposed by the EC before granting Greece a 2.2 billion ECU (\$3 billion) balance of payments loan in January.

"The recent EC loan... averted a balance of payments crisis," Bank of Greece Governor Dimitris Halikias said in his annual report in April.

He urged the government to sustain its policies and create a climate favourable to investment and trade.

Turkey to sell Soviets 1.7m tonnes of food

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey has signed a \$216 million agreement with the Soviet Union to export 1.75 million tonnes of grain, flour and macaroni, officials have said.

"The amount is one of the biggest in Turkey's crop exports," a senior agricultural official said.

The deal is backed by Turkish Eximbank loans.

Eximbank officials said the bank was about to release an urgent loan for \$18 million. Terms for the remaining \$200 million were still being negotiated.

The 1,080,000 tonnes of wheat, 300,000 tonnes of barley, 352,500 tonnes of wheat flour and 20,000 tonnes of macaroni, will be delivered in stages up to the end of the year.

The Soviet Union has been suffering severe food shortages, caused in part by a poor distribution system — most produce is left to rot in warehouses. It is harvesting a bumper crop of grain this year.

Turkish-Soviet trade rose to \$1.78 billion in 1990 from \$1.3 billion the previous year. Turkey extended \$950 million of export and investment credits to the Soviet Union last year.

U.S., World Bank call truce in battle over private sector

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States and the World Bank have called a truce in their bitter battle over promoting private enterprise in the developing world, officials have said.

The truce, in which both sides gave ground, should pave the way for a capital increase of about \$1 billion for the International Finance Corp (IFC), a World Bank affiliate.

"There's been some give and take," said one U.S. official, who asked not to be identified.

U.S. officials said the bank agreed to a set of measures designed to ensure that private sector development plays a key role in aid programmes.

Washington had accused the bank of focusing too much on helping Third World governments and state-owned companies and not enough on helping private business.

The measures agreed on include studies of the role of private sectors in developing countries and the adoption of a strategy by the World Bank and the IFC to enhance that role, U.S. officials said.

The bank also agreed to organisational changes to spur private enterprise in the Third World, such as hiring people from the private sector to promote private business, the officials said.

But U.S. officials conceded that Washington did not get all that it sought.

The United States had wanted a promise from the World Bank to devote at least half its lending to promoting the private sector in the developing world.

However, the two sides did agree on a way to measure whether a loan promotes private sector development, effectively establishing a criteria to determine if the credit should proceed.

The agreement means that the IFC should be able to win a capital increase next month, although it is likely to be slightly smaller than the \$1.3 billion it was originally seeking.

The United States had held up approval of the capital increase in order to prod the World Bank to agree to its private sector proposals.

"We're willing to go forward," said a U.S. official, indicating that the United States was now ready to join other industrial nations in contributing to the capital increase.

Saudi wheat exports may rise because of Gulf crisis

RIYADH (R) — The effects of the Gulf crisis may help Saudi Arabia boost its wheat exports this year to well over two million tonnes, economists said.

Saudi Arabia, already the world's sixth biggest wheat exporter due to the government's 10-year drive for food self-sufficiency, has been selling around 1.9 million tonnes of its 1990 harvest of 3.6 million tonnes, they said.

However, the government is still locked into supporting its wheat farmers with huge subsidies that makes Saudi grain absurdly uncompetitive at world prices.

Faced with large Gulf war costs but unable to cut its subsidies to farmers much further without risking discontent in the provinces, the kingdom seems set to sustain its current output and export levels, the economists said.

The extra few hundred thousand tonnes of surplus wheat this year could come from a drop in domestic consumption, and port disruption during the crisis, they said.

After Iraq invaded Kuwait last August, an estimated 300,000 Kuwaitis fled to Saudi Arabia. In the ensuing months more than 500,000 foreign troops arrived to fight in the alliance that drove Iraq from the emirate in February.

But 750,000 Yemenis left the kingdom after its political ties with Sanaa soured due to Yemen's public sympathy for Iraq. The Yemeni migrant workers would have been much higher per capita consumers of bread in their staple diet.

Delays and disruptions at Saudi ports as the multinational forces arrived has also held up an unknown amount of Saudi grain which remains for export from last year, they added.

The crisis did not affect domestic farmers' planting plans, and may even have encouraged them to plant more, agricultural experts in the kingdom said.

Because of Iraq's attack on Kuwait and the uncertain political situation, the government paid the subsidy to farmers early last year, they said. As it became apparent Iraq was not going to attack Saudi Arabia the farmers, who farm areas well away from the borders, bought more seed with the subsidy money.

No official estimates were available on the 1991 harvest.

The cost of Saudi wheat production has dropped dramatically since the early days of the self-sufficiency drive when it was about \$1,100 per tonne. It now costs \$400 to \$500 a tonne under a two-tier system favouring smaller producers.

This is still about three times the price of world market wheat of around \$125 to \$135 per tonne.

The government therefore loses twice, once in the subsidy, and once for the opportunity lost by not importing wheat at prevailing world prices.

However, the subsidy cost is offset by the political benefits of sustaining large number of nationals in gainful employment and profitable businesses in the agricultural sector, the economists said.

"It's just like farm subsidies anywhere, once you start, it's very hard to stop," said one agricultural expert.

But opinion is split over the future of sustaining this large wheat acreage in a country which is mainly desert. Water resources, and the problems of increasing salinity by irrigating the sandy soils, cast a large shadow over the Saudi farm sector.

"From all I see, I'd say there is going to be a major water shortage in the next five to six years," said a diplomatic economist in the kingdom.

Others believe there is plenty of water but that, like oil, it becomes less economic to extract the deeper it lies.

In watered areas in the mountains of central and western Saudi Arabia, water still flows from depths of under 20 metres. But near Riyadh farmers have to go down 1,500 metres for water.

The self-sufficiency policy, however, continues and is in its second stage. The kingdom still requires barley imports to feed livestock, which have outgrown domestic barley output of around 350,000 tonnes a year. But it is self-sufficient in eggs, and nearly so in poultry, the economists said.

This is not good news for foreign food exporters. "As they become self-sufficient... trade curtains come down as domestic farmers are protected," said a visiting Australian businessman.

Nearly 500,000 jobs in eastern Germany to go later this month

BERLIN (R) — East Germany's Treuband privatisation agency said nearly half a million workers in the former communist state's overmanned industry will become unemployed this month when a job protection agreement expires.

Treuband board member Mr. Alexander Koch told the Handelsblatt business daily that 450,000 would lose their jobs on June 30, with another 600,000 becoming unemployed by 1992.

Mr. Koch said half of the 2.8 million workers in Treuband industries will have lost their jobs by 1992. The agency dismissed 360,000 in the first three months of this year.

East German industry, once a showpiece of the former communist bloc, has crumbled since the overnight introduction in July 1990 of West Germany's market economy.

An immediate collapse in the east's labour market was prevented by unions and employers agreeing to a one year job protection deal and by the introduction of state short time schemes, which pay workers to do virtually nothing.

Mr. Koch said the gradual expiry of short time schemes was staggering the surge in unemployment in eastern Germany, where one in three is already on jobless benefit or short time. Economists forecast 50 per cent joblessness by 1992.

New service industries, neglected under communism, have created around one million jobs.

But Mr. Koch said unemployment was also kept down by up to 500,000 east Germans working in the more affluent west.

A poll published by the DGB union federation said 52 per cent of east Germans feared becoming unemployed.

IEA sees world oil demand up 1.7% yearly to 2005

PARIS (AP) — Global demand for crude oil is expected to rise an average 1.7 per cent annually through the year 2005, while demand among the members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) alone is seen advancing only 0.6 per cent a year, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA).

The figures were included in a combined review of IEA members' energy policies and long-term outlook on market conditions.

The outlook, covering the period 1989-2005, assumes the price of oil will average about \$21 a barrel through 1992, then rise gradually to \$35 a barrel 2005. The agency downplayed the Gulf war as a factor, noting that "most indications are that, as far as oil prices are concerned, the impact of recent events is likely to prove short-lived."

Rising oil demand will focus on the transport and petrochemical sectors, the agency report said. Transport demand will grow an estimated two per cent a year on average until 1995, then about 1.1 per cent for the following decade, it said. Petrochemical oil demand is seen rising an average 0.9 per cent a year to 2005.

On the production side, OECD oil output is seen falling about 3.5 million barrels a day between 1990-2005 to 12.2 million barrels a day, while Middle East production is expected to nearly double to 32.3 million barrels a day.

Production of non-Middle East developing countries is seen rising about 7.0 million barrels a day to 27.4 million barrels a day.

OECD imports are expected to be 7.6 million tons higher in 2005 than they were in 1989. On a percentage basis, OECD dependence on imports is projected to rise to 59 to 70 per cent by 2005.

Polish government wants speedy reforms

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Nineteen months into an ambitious economic reform plan, Poland has unveiled a mid-course correction designed to put half of the economy in private hands within a year.

The plan to sell off hundreds of state-owned industries and businesses is outlined in a report that calls for accelerating the transformation to a free market economy.

It calls for the exercise of government Fiat to implement the plan.

The government of Prime Minister Jan Krzysztof Bielecki has said that in addition to deliberate, step-by-step public offerings of some state companies conducted so far, a radical acceleration is needed.

"The government is launching an economic offensive... a 'jump into capitalism,'" wrote the Polish daily Gazeta Wyborcza.

"The most important goal — it seems to be the government's creed — is to make various forms of private ownership outweigh state property as soon as possible," the commentary said.

In a radical programme promoted by Finance Minister Leszek Balcerowicz, Poland on Jan. 1, 1990, freed prices, arrested wages, cut back subsidies, made the currency convertible and exposed domestic producers to foreign competition.

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Ahmad Zaki & Hala Sudki in THE ESCAPE (Arabic)

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Hurd says no help for Moscow at G7 summit

HALLE, Germany (R) — British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, dampening German hopes, said Sunday the Soviet Union would not receive any pledge of aid from next month's London Group of Seven (G7) economic summit.

After talks with Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher in his East German hometown, Hurd told a joint news conference the leaders of the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada would probably meet Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev alongside their July 15-17 summit.

"No one is expecting that from that meeting will come a promise of help," he said, adding that the seven would discuss Soviet plans and needs sympathetically with the Kremlin leader.

Genscher, sitting beside Hurd,

made no comment on the issue.

But German government sources said Friday Bonn would continue lobbying its partners to discuss coordinated financial aid for Moscow at the G7 summit.

Commenting on reports that aid would not be on the agenda of the proposed meeting with Gorbachev, a German official said: "If we don't even want to talk about it, then there is no point in Gorbachev coming."

Hurd said what the London meeting could achieve was "procedure, processes and examination on a new basis of the plans and need for help of the Soviet Union."

Senior Kremlin aide Yevgeny Primakov said in an interview published Thursday that Gorbachev would be seeking financial support for specific moves to a market economy but not gener-

al cash handouts.

The Soviet leader appealed to the West in his Nobel Peace Prize address last week to support his policy of "perestroika" (restructuring), warning that peace could otherwise be endangered.

Genscher referred to a letter from Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh calling for a political reshaping of a united Europe to be considered at this month's Berlin foreign ministers' session of the 34-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

He said he and Hurd found "many points of agreement, also in the aims" between the West and the Soviet Union.

The Berlin meeting should adopt a crisis-resolution mechanism that would strengthen the conflict-prevention centre created by a CSCE summit in Paris



Douglas Hurd

last November.

Britain has proposed the creation of a team of mediators who could be called in by both sides to an inter-state dispute or by a member-state to help resolve internal conflicts.

Hurd and Genscher said they also agreed on the need to appoint a special U.N. official to coordinate relief operations and deal more quickly and effectively with disasters.

Major seeks German help toward EC compromise

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister John Major, in deep political trouble at home, met Germany's Chancellor Helmut Kohl Sunday hoping to ease concern that Britain could be pushed further than it wants toward European economic union.

Major, who met Kohl at his official country home of Chequers outside London for informal talks and lunch, was hoping to build on the good relationship he has already created with the European Community's (EC) most powerful leader.

British officials said their main concerns were progress toward union among the 12 EC members and how to handle the presence of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev during next month's G7 summit of leading industrial powers in London.

The Major-Kohl alliance is seen by government officials as an important element in the government's campaign, partly for domestic political reasons, to halt the movement within the EC for a timetable for political and monetary union.

One senior official, asked whether Britain was heading for further isolation from its partners, said last week in a reference to Kohl: "We have some big friends in Europe."

EC leaders meet in Luxem-



John Major

bourg at the end of this month. Britain wants that summit just before the start of progress in inter-governmental talks on monetary and political union. Others want to set clear guidelines to help the talks progress.

Although Major has improved Britain's position in the EC by adopting a conciliatory tone in contrast to the aggressiveness of his predecessor Margaret Thatcher, his key problem remains.

His Conservative Party is split, with Thatcher and grassroots activists portraying each move toward closer integration as a betrayal of sovereignty. But many business executives see the only future within Europe.

Germany, once clearly aligned with France in seeking early European union, has drifted toward the more cautious camp, saying the 1994 deadline for starting the move toward a common currency might be too early.

On Tuesday Germany presented a draft treaty on a single currency which both France and European Commission President Jacques Delors criticised as departing from an agreed plan to achieve monetary union in three stages.

Both Germany and Britain agree there should be closer convergence of economic performance of all members before full monetary union, including a single EC currency, is contemplated.

Major and Kohl were due to explore possible compromises, including a plan by Delors for Britain to be allowed to accept treaty changes that would allow a single currency. Britain would be allowed to sign up for the change later.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the pro-European former chancellor and foreign secretary, suggested last week Germany could opt for currency union with the economies of northern Europe instead of full EMU, "leaving out southern European countries (for economic reasons) as well as the U.K. (for political reasons)."

Sabotage suspected in Pakistan train crash

GHOTKI, Pakistan (R) — Sabotage may have caused a train crash in the troubled southern Pakistani province of Sind that killed at least 55 people and injured more than 180, officials said.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif suspended a top railway official and ordered a speedy inquiry after visiting the crash site at Ghotki, 320 kilometres north of Karachi where an express ploughed into the back of a parked freight train Saturday.

Jam Sadiq Ali, chief minister of Sind province, told him the crash was caused by "some subversive activity." Several other officials at the crash site said openly that sabotage was the cause.

Railways Minister Mir Hazar Khan Bijrani said sabotage could not be ruled out, a statement repeated in parliament in Islamabad by the minister of state for law, Amir Hussain.

Sind has been plagued for years by ethnic and political violence and banditry for kidnappings for ransom.

Bijrani said in a statement that electric points and signalling systems at Ghotki were highly advanced and it was "impossible" to direct a train onto an occupied track.

The official APP news agency quoted Ali as saying the freight train occupied the main Ghotki track for 40 minutes although it should have left 30 minutes before the crash.

Sharif ordered a high-level inquiry committee to report on the crash within three days. It was Pakistan's worst train accident since January last year when 307 people were killed and 430 injured in a similar collision in the same area.

The Ghotki crash occurred eight days after an unexplained explosion in an army arsenal in north west frontier province which killed at least 18 people and wounded more than 60.

Relief workers at Ghotki said they had counted 55 bodies. Doctors said the toll could rise as the condition of about 20 of the injured was critical.

A witness of the crash said: "Detached limbs of the dead and injured passengers were scattered at the site. Several of the destroyed coaches were red with passengers' blood. It was a horrible scene."

Philippine volcano explodes, threatens U.S. air base

BOTOLAN, Philippines (R) — A Philippine volcano exploded Sunday threatening one of the largest U.S. military bases in Asia, but a U.S. spokesman said there was no danger a hail of ash and lava could damage weapons there.

A U.S. embassy spokesman in Manila declined to say whether nuclear weapons were stationed at Clark Air Base, close to the long-dormant Mount Pinatubo.

But he said "no weapons systems are threatened at Clark."

All military personnel were recalled to the base north of Manila. U.S. officials ordered dependants to rehearse evacuation ready for a possible transfer to the Subic Bay naval dockyard 50 kilometres to the southwest.

"We're going to continue watching it through the night ... we want everyone to be ready in case we have to (evacuate)," U.S. Air Base Lieutenant Colonel Ron Rand said in a broadcast over local American Forces Television.

More than 40,000 American servicemen and their dependants live at Clark and at Subic Bay, the largest U.S. bases in Asia.

"Unfortunately, this is just the beginning ... stronger and bigger eruptions are still possible," Philippine volcanology chief Raymundo Punongbayan said in a radio interview.

U.S. and Philippine officials say the eruption of Pinatubo took place on the northwest flank of the mountain away from the air base. But they are concerned a bigger blast may send lava and mud speeding its way.

Mount Pinatubo, in the mountainous Zambales region some 90

kilometres northwest of Manila, exploded Sunday afternoon sending plumes of ash and smoke into the sky and rivers of red-hot lava and mud cascading down its flanks.

Pinatubo, dormant for 600 years, was the second volcano along the Pacific "rim of fire" to explode in the past week.

In Japan, Mount Unzen erupted last Monday, killing 38 people on Kyushu Island around 1,000 kilometres southwest of Tokyo.

Pressure was reported building inside the volcano again Sunday after it vented a torrent of lava, gas and debris overnight which engulfed the outskirts of a resort town.

At Pinatubo, the volcano ejected a towering ash cloud eight kilometres high, with winds spreading it over a 100 kilometres area and carrying it as far as the South China Sea.

There were no immediate reports of casualties as almost 15,000 people, mostly from the Aeta tribe, have fled 20 villages within a 20-kilometre radius of the volcano. Civil defence officials said most of the tribe had been evacuated.

Because of heavy ash in the sky, flights out of the U.S. air base may have to be rescheduled, a spokesman at Clark said.

Clark is headquarters of the 13th air force. Two squadrons of F-4 fighters have been withdrawn as part of defence cuts.

But the base, used to resupply forces during the Gulf war, remains a key U.S. logistics centre in the Western Pacific.

Kaifu in volcano town
Japanese Prime Minister

Toshiki Kaifu Sunday visited a hot springs resort threatened by Unzen volcano as scientists warned of another possible catastrophic explosion.

The volcano exploded again Saturday night, spewing a scalding stream of lava, gases and debris which engulfed the outskirts of the resort town of Shimabara in southern Japan.

No one was reported killed or missing after Saturday night's eruption, the biggest this century, at Mount Unzen, about 1,000 kilometres southwest of Tokyo on the island of Kyushu.

Kaifu told evacuees: "The government will help you out. So please keep up your spirits and hang in there."

Kaifu said he would take measures to secure housing for residents affected by the volcano.

About 10,000 people have already been evacuated and this number could increase, officials said.

Volcanic hail — small pieces of debris — rained down on Shimabara and its 44,000 residents.

Shimabara, areas of which are just eight kilometres from Mount Unzen, narrowly escaped disaster Saturday night. The wave of lava and gas engulfed and burned more than 70 of the 230 homes evacuated just the day before as it rolled to within two kilometres of the populated coastal strip.

The torrent almost cut off the smaller town of Fukae, with a population of 8,500, to the south of Shimabara. Two navy warships stood by to help with evacuation.

"There seems to be no danger at this moment. But our biggest worry now is a tidal wave," a town official said.

Bosnia holds emergency meeting after Serb incursion

BELGRADE (R) — Yugoslavia's central republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina convened an emergency defence meeting after Serbian militia crossed into its territory from neighbouring Croatia, Tanjug news agency said Sunday.

It said Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic called a session of the republic's defence council Saturday after special forces of the self-proclaimed Serbian autonomous region of Krajina entered the Bosnian town of Titov Drvar.

Bosnia, which has a mixed population of Muslims, Serbs and Croats, is caught between the main rivals in the Yugoslav crisis, Serbia and Croatia.

Tanjug said a battalion of the Krajina militia had staged a one-day exercise in Titov Drvar to "test combat-readiness."

It quoted Krajina militia chief Milan Martić as saying other exercises would follow. It said he claimed the incursion had erased the border between Krajina and

Bosnia.

Izetbegovic was trying to contact the federal army to report the incident, Tanjug said.

Krajina, a predominantly-Serbian populated enclave in southern Croatia, has declared independence and nomenclature with the largest republic Serbia in a revolt against Croatia's moves towards independence from Yugoslavia.

The incursion into Bosnia was likely to damage an agreement reached by the country's six republics last week to solve their inter-ethnic conflicts peacefully.

Belgrade Radio reported Bosnian police had detained three men, including two Croatian policemen, after finding supplies of automatic weapons and ammunition in their car.

In recent weeks several shipments of arms, some destined for Serbs and others for Croats, have been intercepted by the Bosnian police, increasing tensions in the republic.

Population, environmental problems plague Vietnam

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Vietnam's soaring population is creating severe unemployment and environmental problems, officials report Sunday said.

Describing Vietnam as "a hotbed of the population explosion," the Vietnam News Agency said the current population of 67.5 million is expanding at a rate of 1.2 million people each year and is expected to reach 80 million by the year 2000.

Citing rapid increases in the working-age population, the agency said Vietnam had a

"permanent redundant work force" of 600,000 to 700,000 people. In rural areas, the number of unemployed makes up one-third of the total work force, the Saturday report said.

Another agency dispatch, issued Sunday, described mounting environmental problems in Hanoi, the national capital, where the inner city has swollen to 940,000 people compared to 150,000 in 1954.

Lack of sanitation, drainage and garbage collection in the city were cited.

Pope meets Jaruzelski

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Pope John Paul II received a familiar figure in dark suit and dark glasses Sunday morning as he ended a nine-day trip to his native land: Former communist leader Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski.

The previously unannounced 15-minute meeting took place at 8 a.m. at the Papal Nuncio's residence.

"The church side and I personally were interested in holding such a meeting. The rest was arranged by the Holy Spirit," the 67-year-old Jaruzelski said with a chuckle as he emerged and got into his private Peugeot, accompanied by a bodyguard.

A Vatican spokesman said the meeting was allowed because Jaruzelski, head of state until December, was the one who had extended the formal invitation for the pontiff to come to Poland.

Jaruzelski said he and the Pope talked about "Polish affairs ... world affairs, about hopes and worries."

From an aristocratic family, Jaruzelski was baptized a Roman Catholic and educated in a Jesuit seminary before his family was deported to the Soviet Union during World War II. He emerged from the war a young communist officer in a Soviet-sponsored Polish army.

The last meeting between John Paul and Jaruzelski was an icy airport confrontation at the end of the pontiff's last pilgrimage in 1987. Communist authorities were furious at what they saw as political interference by John Paul, who during the visit had urged the faithful not to lose "solidarity."

Jaruzelski, who imposed martial law to crush Solidarity in 1981 and then yielded to its rebirth and assumption of power in 1989, said his meeting with the Pope have always been good.

China willing to ease diplomatic offensive against Taiwan

TAIPEI (R) — China is willing to ease its diplomatic offensive against Taiwan if the island agrees to discuss reunification with the mainland, and influential legislators of Taipei's ruling Nationalist Party said Sunday.

Lin Yu-Siang, who returned from a private visit to Beijing last week, told reporters that Chinese officials had indicated they might stop blocking Taiwan's efforts to join international bodies such as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

"The issue of Taiwan's international status can be resolved through talks," Lin quoted Sun Xiaoyu, deputy director of the Taiwan Affairs Office of China's State Council, as saying.

"Nothing will come of it if we merely continue to shout propaganda at each other," Sun was

quoted as saying. Beijing's communist rulers have sought to isolate Taipei since they drove the nationalists from power on the mainland in 1949.

China regularly protests to countries that expand links with the island. Twenty-eight states now recognise Taipei.

Beijing's official press kept up a stream of criticism of Taiwan last week, accusing the Nationalists of stalling on unification and providing opportunities for proponents of Taiwan independence.

On Friday, China offered to send a delegation to Taiwan for onification talks between the Nationalist and Communist parties.

Taiwan reacted cautiously to the proposal. Government spokesman Shaw Yu-Ming said it contained nothing new, adding

that there would be no hope of progress in bilateral relations until Beijing halted its diplomatic offensive.

On Saturday, Beijing renewed its threat to take Taiwan by military force, saying the unification of the island with China was an important goal of this decade.

"We stress the use of peaceful methods to reunify the country. However, we will not promise to abandon the military option," the People's Daily quoted a leading official of the Taiwan Affairs Office in Beijing as saying.

Last month, Taiwan took what it described as a major step towards reconciliation with Beijing by repealing a 1948 emergency decree that symbolised the Nationalists' determination to crush Communist rule on the mainland.

De Klerk says winds of change again blowing across Africa

NAIROBI (R) — South African President F.W. De Klerk ended an historic two-day visit to Kenya Sunday — the first by a South African government leader — and spoke of a new wind of change blowing across Africa.

In this critical time in Africa, only countries like Kenya and South Africa had the power, energy and initiative to rescue the continent, he said at a state banquet given Saturday night by Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi.

On Sunday, De Klerk travelled 300 kilometres northwest to Eldoret to attend morning service at a church built in the 1950s by African farmers then living in the area. He met the handful of Africaners who still live and farm there.

He also flew to Nanyuki, on the Equator, for lunch at the luxurious Mount Kenya Safari Club, which faces the 5,199-metre snow-capped peak of Mount Kenya.

"The Equator is no longer the dividing line of Africa for us," he commented, in what was inter-

preted as a forecast of more trips soon to other black African countries.

Back in Nairobi, De Klerk had a final meeting with Moi over tea at Nairobi airport before his plane left for Johannesburg — a flight extended by the need to fly east over the Indian Ocean to avoid Tanzanian airspace. Tanzania refuses to allow South African aircraft to fly over its territory.

Speaking at the state banquet, De Klerk told Moi and other guests that South Africa had embarked on a process which Kenya had accomplished many years ago — the reconciliation of all its races.

But, he said, the winds of change were blowing across Africa and soon there would be total democracy in South Africa, with fairness and justice for all.

He assured Moi that all his country's diverse communities would be accommodated, and their energies channelled to the development of the new South Africa.

Kenya and South Africa, he

said, were islands capable of rescuing the continent.

The Kenya News Agency quoted Moi as commending De Klerk's "bold decision of initiating a process of dismantling apartheid in South Africa."

This, he said, had given hope to all those who cherished racial harmony.

On Sunday morning the Immanuel Church in Eldoret, centre of a big farming area, was crowded with worshippers, with hundreds standing outside as De Klerk, his foreign minister Pik Botha, and other members of his party arrived.

Pieter De Wet, a Dutch reformed church missionary, who had travelled from South Africa with De Klerk, said a prayer in Afrikaans — which local worshippers said was the first time the language had been used there since 1967.

After the service, De Klerk commented: "It made a great impression on me that people still speak Afrikaans this far north in Africa."

Albanian communists meet to plan for future

By Jan Krcmar
Reuters

TIRANA — Albania's Communist Party of Labour (PLA), still in power but reeling from internal conflict and waning support, holds the most crucial congress in its history Monday to plan for an uncertain future.

Reformers see it as chance to break with the old party while conservatives regard it as an exercise in damage limitation.

The PLA reluctantly loosened its Stalinist grip last year, agreed to allow opposition parties to emerge and embarked on a cautious path towards urgently-needed economic and social reform.

Instead of reaping gratitude it has watched a population fleeing in thousands from the "workers' paradise" it had so proudly proclaimed and seen monuments of its once-revered leader Enver Hoxha toppled by protesters.

It stood by helplessly last month as 70 per cent of the small Balkan country's workforce went on a crippling general strike that

last week brought down its government.

Earlier this week it relinquished absolute power to a national unity government that will lead the country to early elections next May or June under an all-party agreement.

The events of the past months have led to a split inside the party with reformists calling for changes opposed by hardliners who blame too-fast reforms for the loss of power.

"The congress will be a unique opportunity to break with the old party which led the country into the drastic state it is in," said Leontiev Cuci, 39, economics minister in the outgoing government and a delegate to the congress.

"By this I mean creation of a new party with a new name that will be able to meet the demands of our current democratic development," he added.

Conservatives, while paying lip service to the need for party reform, appear to be backing a policy of damage control and blaming most of the failures of

the past on bureaucratic mistakes rather than the bankruptcy of totalitarian communism.

"One cannot judge the events of the past from a present point of view," Abdyll Backa, a secretary of the PLA central committee, said. "We shall have to judge our past with a view towards the future."

The shadow of the late Hoxha, who ruled the country for 41 years and led it into almost total isolation, looms over this debate on the PLA's past.

Hundreds of people were executed, including many associates, and thousands sentenced to long prison terms. Forced collectivisation of farmland, economic self-reliance and a ban on private enterprise almost ruined Europe's poorest state.

Hoxha's paranoia about internal and external enemies can be seen in the thousands of concrete pillboxes jutting from fields and orchards throughout the country.

"If all that material and the effort to build them were used for housing then we would not have to live in such appalling condi-

tions," said Gezim Shima, head of Albania's independent Federation of Trade Unions.

The fate of Hoxha's successor Ramiz Alia, who became president after Hoxha died in 1985, also hangs in the balance.

It was Alia who gradually opened Albania to the world and overcame resistance within the party leadership to allow opposition parties and call free elections earlier this year.

But his refusal openly to condemn Hoxha and his recent alignment with party conservatives has lost him support.

Alia gave up the party leadership after the elections two months ago and was elected president by the 250-seat parliament to which the PLA won a two-thirds majority.

But diplomats in Tirana said many party members were looking over their shoulders at developments in Bulgaria where the renamed communists, despite also winning the elections last year, have slowly seen their power eroding.

COLUMN

Police chief suspends himself

PINELLAS PARK, Florida (R) — A chastened police chief said Friday he ordered himself on suspension after accidentally opening fire inside the police station and shooting holes in its office walls. David Milchan, who is in charge of this Central Florida city's police department, said he had recently switched from carrying a revolver to an automatic pistol and was unfamiliar with the new weapon. He loaded the pistol and forgot to engage the safety latch. "I just forgot to use it. The gun went off, it worked just fine," Milchan said. The slug ricocheted through three walls at an upward angle, and did not injure anyone. "You wouldn't want to know what I said first," Milchan said. "The second thing I did was to call in my internal affairs officer, and my boss, the city manager." Milchan decided to order himself on two days of unpaid suspension after he remembered that was the same punishment he gave one of his officers for a similar offence. Milchan said he also ordered himself to complete a firearms training course during the next month.

Shanghai to crack down on dance halls, karaoke

BEIJING (R) — Shanghai is to crack down on hostesses working in dance halls, beer halls and karaoke bars, an official newspaper in China's largest city said. "Attracting business by having hostesses sitting with customers, drinking with clients, managing clients of the opposite sex or being professional dancing girls is strictly prohibited," the Wen Hui Bao quoted police and licensing authorities as saying. Authorities will also try to stamp out gambling and the drug trade, said the newspaper, received here Sunday.

Couple sues magazine for misusing their wedding photo

MORRISTOWN (R) — An American couple are suing a magazine they said ran their wedding picture to illustrate a feature on a man leaving his wife for another man. Michael and Agnes Grieco of Passaic township, New Jersey, said they were stunned when Woman's World ran a photo from their 1957 wedding for the story. They said the headline in the December 4, 1990 issue said: "Emily and Luke were happily married for almost 30 years — then he fell in love with a man." A photo caption said: "Photo dramatization with models," and the feature said no real names were used in the article. The Grieco family lawyer said the story had nothing to do with the couple, who are happily married and never authorised the use of the picture. He is suing for libel and invasion of privacy. Damages being sought were not specified. Woman's World magazine had no immediate comment. It is owned by Heinrich Bauer North America Inc, a part of German-based GLP International.

Cancer drug may help keep memory

LONDON (R) — A medicine used to relieve nausea in cancer patients may also prove a wonder drug for older people losing their memories. British drugs giant Glaxo said Sunday. The firm said Ondansetron, now used in cancer therapy, had given patients in clinical trials memory abilities equivalent to when they were from six to eight years younger. There have been a number of studies ... memory decline is just one of several possible areas where Ondansetron might be used," said Glaxo spokesman Miles Wilson. Age-associated memory loss affects between 25 and 50 per cent of people aged over 65. Wilson said there had also been studies on the drug's capability to relieve anxiety and help certain addictions. The findings were reported at a Glaxo-sponsored seminar in Florence. Glaxo said some 600 patients took part in two clinical trials in the United States. Tests on around 400 patients in Britain also indicated that the drug relieves stress without the signs of dependency that may occur in some tranquillizers. The clinical trials are still at an early stage. But independent experts said Ondansetron should also have "considerable therapeutic potential" in treating alcohol, tobacco, cocaine and opiate addiction as well as psychiatric disorders.